MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 JANUARY 1981

American Hostages

Following a flurry of diplomatic exchanges, Algeria announced that the United States and Iran have reached agreement for the release of the hostages. Algiers radio reported the conclusion of the agreement shortly after U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher signed the Algerian Government statement containing the terms of the agreement. Meanwhile, Iranian Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi told Tehran radio that the hostages would be released only after Iran receives notification from Algeria that the agreement has been signed and the transfer of frozen assets is underway. The minister stressed that Iran has not signed any agreement with the United States but instead has agreed with the Algerian Government statement. Nabavi added that the team of Algerian doctors has begun to examine the hostages prior to their release.

AFP reported that the two Algerian planes scheduled to bring out the hostages have arrived in Tehran and have requested a return clearance through Ankara "in the course of Monday afternoon (19 January)."

In an earlier interview with PARS, Nabavi said Iran considered the final days of the Carter administration to be the "last opportunity" for an agreement because a U.S. failure to listen to Iran's "lawful and logical demands" would have meant a complete change in Iran's policy. The minister indicated that Iran is to receive all of its readily available frozen assets, while those under dispute will be settled by arbitration.

Iranian Domestic Affairs

Minister's Resignation--AFP, citing the newspaper Tehran TIMES, reported that Deputy Foreign Minister Jamshid Haqgu resigned "to protest against work conditions" at the Foreign Ministry. Haqgu earlier had called Iran's present foreign policy "unrealistic" and had urged Iran's attendance at the upcoming Islamic summit conference in Saudi Arabia.

Friday Imam on Army--Tehran's Friday imam, 'Ali Khamene'i, told worshippers that the armed forces are exerting "sincere and loyal efforts," Tehran radio's Arabic service said, but denounced "enemies" who are trying to incite "sedition" among the armed forces and the people, trying to create differences between the two. He said that among the vast majority of loyal fighters there are "rare examples" of combatants who "do not harbor in their hearts the spirit of the Islamic revolution."

Defense Council on Morale, War News--Tehran radio reported that the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council has followed up Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's previously reported speech to bazaaris calling for an end to public discussion of the war with a further plea to the public not to raise "peripheral issues" and mount "excessive propaganda" which will sap morale and create differences. The Supreme Defense Council added that public discussion of the war will make military information available to the enemy and create a "climate of distrust." The statement called on officials in the mass media to coordinate their coverage of the war with the council prior to publication.

Iranian-Syrian Relations

Tehran radio reported that Iran and Syria signed a bilateral agreement providing for joint cooperation on land, sea and air transportation, including the opening of a new air route between Tehran and Damascus. The radio said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated his support for Iran in its "fight against imperialism."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Palme Mission--UN special envoy Olof Palme held separate meetings with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Prime Minister Mohammad Raja'i and Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani to discuss the Iran-Iraq conflict and possible solutions to it. In remarks reported by Tehran radio, Bani-Sadr rejected Iraq's latest offer for negotiations conveyed by Palme, saying that Iran "cannot accept conditions which negate the fruits of our Islamic revolution." Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, however, told the radio that the Supreme Defense Council has requested from Palme certain clarifications to "ambiguities" regarding the Iraqi proposals.

Bani-Sadr on War--Following a meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni to report on the war, President Bank-Sadr told PARS that Iran destroyed one Iraqi division and two brigades in its latest offensive. While the Iranian Army "is much better than it was before," Bani-Sadr noted, limited facilities available in Iran mean that Iran cannot end the war "in a couple of days." Urging patience, the president said "time is needed to solve the problem."

Hammadi Negotiation Offer--Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq is ready to hold negotiations with Iran on the basis of respect for each other's rights and the mutual return of all seized territories. In remarks reported by QNA, Hammadi welcomed a possible meeting between President Saddam Husayn and President Bani-Sadr at the Islamic summit conference.

Saddam Husayn Interview--President Saddam Husayn asserted that Iraq did not go to war with Iran to cause the collapse of the Islamic revolution but to safeguard Iraq's sovereignty and defend Arab rights. In a wide-ranging interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, Saddam Husayn said Iran has clearly been defeated and is prolonging the war "without justification." While noting that the Soviet Union has taken a neutral position in the Gulf war, the Iraqi president declared that Iran is using Soviet weapons obtained from Syria and Libya and he attacked their support for Iran. Saddam Husayn termed Arab support for Iraq as "insufficient," saying that a lack of support encouraged Iran to prolong the war.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported fierce fighting on the Ahvaz, Susangerd and Hoveyzeh fronts and noted that Iraqi artillery had shelled Dezful, Abadan and Gilan-e Gharb. The radio claimed successes by Iranian commando units on the Ilam front. Iraqi General Command communiques carried by INA confirmed the shelling of Abadan and said Iranian forces in Gilan-e Gharb were forced to retreat. An earlier communique claimed that Iraqi forces carried out a successful raid on Dehlo an, briefly entering the town on 14 January. The town of Al-Huwair, the communique went on, is now completely under Iraqi control.

Kurdish Situation

Tehran radio reported that a joint army-revolution guards corps statement issued in Kordestan proclaimed an amnesty for any member of the "illegal and agent groups" who surrenders by 11 February, providing he has not "committed murder."

Gulf Islands

In an interview with Riyadh television, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah, said the UAE is working hard to ensure the return of the three Gulf islands occupied by Iran in 1971. The UAE wants to regain its "rights," he said, through "peaceful and brotherly means." KUNA reported that Qatar's minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf at-Thani, announced his country's support for the UAE demand for the restoration of the islands. KUNA also reported that the question of the islands was discussed at a meeting in Damascus between Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and visiting Iranian Transport Minister Musa Kalantari. In an interview

with Kuwaiti newspapers reported by INA, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn reiterated his demand for the restoration of the islands as a prerequisite to stopping the war, along with an Iranian acceptance of Iraq's own territorial "rights." SPA reported that Habib Chatti, Islamic Conference Organization general secretary, said that the islands will be discussed at the forthcoming Islamic summit meeting.

Islamic Summit Conference

SPA reported that in a speech to the Islamic foreign ministers conference in At-Ta'if which is preparing an agenda for the forthcoming Islamic summit conference, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal regretted the absence of Iran and other member states from the meeting. Later, at a press conference reported by Riyadh television, Al-Faysal expressed hope that Iran will be persuaded to attend the Islamic summit. Although QNA reported that the Syrian and Palestinian delegations in At-Ta'if are holding contacts with Iran in an attempt to persuade it to attend the summit conference, Abu Dhabi radio announced that according to Islamic Conference Secretary General Chatti, Iran has already officially notified the organization that it will not attend. Citing a statement by Prince al-Faysal, the radio said that Libya has also officially declined to attend the summit.

In his speech to the ministers, Al-Faysal noted that the political items on the agenda will focus on: Palestine, particularly the "Judaization of Arab Jerusalem;" in Afghanistan the need to "bolster the struggle of the Muslim Afghan people" in order to achieve a Soviet withdrawal and Afghan self-determination; and the Iran-Iraq conflict, which Al-Faysal described as a "particularly important item" because of its "negative repercussions" on Islamic unity. "Serious discussions" about the conflict must be held at the summit conference, he said, in order to find a "peaceful objective solution."

Saudi Deputy Prime Minister Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, in a newspaper interview reported by SPA, said the summit conference must discuss the concept of jihad and adopt a "comprehensive" jihad with "money, men, economy and even arms."

Damascus radio reported that during his visit to At-Ta'if Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that Syria and the PLO have prepared a working paper on the Arab-Israeli conflict for the Islamic that which stresses the primary role of the Palestine question in the Middle East conflict. Voice of Palestine radio reported that Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO delegation leader at the Islamic foreign ministers meeting and Political Department head, also said the summit conference should give priority to the Palestine problem and Islamic states should adopt "sterner" stances on the issue than they have previously done, including taking "feasible measures" against the United States. According to Damascus radio, Qaddumi said "Islamic pressure" could involve severing diplomatic relations with the United States and an economic boycott.

Karachi radio reported that during the Islamic foreign ministers conference meeting in At-Ta'if the standing committee on Afghanistan reviewed its report which will be submitted to the Islamic summit. Conference Secretary Chatti revealed that Afghan resistance leaders will address the summit, AFP reported, adding that the mojahedin leaders have already been granted visas to attend.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Statement--A Foreign Ministry statement carried by Kabul radio said the Islamic summit conference should concentrate on Israeli "aggression and occupation of Arab lands" and the "maneuvers" of Israel, Egypt and the United States in the Middle East. The conference should demand an immediate withdrawal of American naval forces in the Persian Gulf, the statement went on, and the liquidation of U.S. bases in the region.

The radio deprecated attempts by "reactionary and ruling circles" to discuss Afghanistan at the summit and claimed that although Afghanistan presents no threat to peace and security it has become the object of "aggressive actions" from outside. No Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan can be considered, the statement added, without a political settlement involving a complete end to "aggression" against the DRA and "guarantees" of the nonresumption of "subversive actions from abroad."

Amnesty for Refugees--A government statement on the "so-called refugees" announced a "general amnesty" for refugees remaining abroad. In a statement reported by Kabul radio the government claimed to guarantee the safety, freedoms and equal rights of those who profited by the amnesty that has already been "consistently implemented." Although "tens of thousands of people" who left the country as a result of the "savagery" of Hafizollah Amin's government in 1979 have now returned, the radio said, some still remain abroad as a result of "false propaganda" by the revolution's "enemies." "Imperialist and reactionary circles," the statement went on, want to slow down the return of the refugees in order to recruit and train them as "mercenary terrorists."

Israel

Following a Sunday Cabinet session, Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin revealed the Cabinet has decided to ask the Knesset for a dissolution and hold new elections on 7 July. Acting Likud chairman Hayim Kaufman had earlier told the radio that although a majority of Likud members of the Knesset wanted elections in November, they had empowered the government to decide on an election date.

The radio later reported that Alignment Knesset faction chairman Moshe Shahal said he wants the elections to be held in June, prior to the school summer recess. If the Alignment and Likud cannot agree on the date, he said, the Alignment will submit its own bill for the Knesset's dissolution.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT

LD180002 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Announcement by the DRA Foreign Ministry on Islamic Summit]

[Text] Kabul, 17 Jan--The forthcoming conference will be held in a very dramatic and strained period of the history of the Islamic world and the Middle East region, at a time when imperialism, specifically U.S. imperialism, and Zionism are intensifying their aggression and are threatening peace in the region and all over the world.

This is why, in the opinion of the DRA, the countries of the Islamic world should concentrate their attention on ways to settle the most important and acute problems of these countries--problems that are consequences of the Israeli aggression and occupation of Arab lands, such as the separate maneuvres of Israel, Egypt and the USA. The Islamic Conference organization member-states should condemn the armed aggression of American imperialism and other forms of pressure on fraternal Arab peoples, demand an immediate withdrawal of American naval forces from the Persian Gulf, the liquidation of its military bases in the region and an end to the activization of foreign military penetration into the Near and Middle East area.

One of the most pressing problems is the search for efficient ways and means to ensure the inalienable legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to create an independent state of their own, and the liberation of Jerusalem. Of course, the conference should touch upon the issue of the tragic conflict between Iraq and Iran; it should help find a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The main result of the forthcoming conference should be the consolidation of all fraternal Moslem countries.

As has become known, the reactionary and ruling circles of a number of Islamic countries are trying again to include the so-called "Afghan question" in the conference's agenda. It is quite obvious that the attempt has nothing in common with the interests of Islamic countries and pursues the only aim of deteriorating the situation around Afghanistan and launch an anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet propaganda campaign.

What is going on in Afghanistan is in full measure an internal affair of our country and does not present a threat to peace and security in the region or in the world. There is no strife between Afghanistan and Pakistan or between Afghanistan and Iran. The DRA has no territorial clims to these countries. In reality, certain problems have been created by the counterrevolutionary bands, financed and armed by American imperialism and Beijing hegemonism, which have received shelter in some neighboring countries, mostly in Pakistan, and which, from these territories, are carrying out aggressive actions and are interfering in different forms in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

The DRA Government has suggested to the Governments of Pakistan and Iran that the problems be settled by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations. The programme of political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and normalization of relations with Pakistan and Iran was outlined in the DRA Government's statement dated May 14, 1980.

Whereas the internal development of Afghanistan does not present a threat to peace and security in the region or in the world it is Afghanistan that has become an object of aggressive actions from outside and other forms of interference in its internal affairs. It is for this reason that a limited contingent of Soviet troops has been invited to Afghanistan in order to help the Afghan people and the DRA's Armed Forces to repel the aggression.

The statement of the Soviet Union and the DRA, signed in Moscow on October 16, 1980 in the course of the official friendly visit to the Soviet Union of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, Babrak Karmal, says: "As for the limited Soviet military contingent which is on the DRA's territory at the request of the Afghan Government in conformity with the 1978 Soviet-Afghan treaty and the UN Charter, the question of the terms of its withdrawal can be considered in the context of political settlement and not before there is a complete end to aggression against the DRA and guarantees are given of the non-resumption of subversive actions from abroad against the people of the DRA and its government."

The positive changes that have been going on in the DRA since the April revolution entered a new stage of development, are being met with growing understanding and support by the broad working masses of the country's population, which is a sign of the increasing consolidation of popular power, economic development, implementation of the land reform, consolidation of law and order and continuation of the normalization process in the country as a whole. The recent conference of national and patriotic forces, held recently in Kabul, on the issue of the formation of a broad National Fatherland Front to unite all the classes, sections and groups of the Afghan society, has been an important event.

It is obvious to every objective observer that the attempts to impose a discussion of the so-called "Afghan question" on the forthcoming conference seek primarily to divert its attention away from the really acute and pressing problems of the Islamic world. To stop such attempts, it is necessary to take measures to discuss the acute problems, so as not to waste time on discussing questions dealing a blow at the unity of the Islamic world. so that is victory in the joint struggle against the enemies are ensured.

As for the decision connected with the temporary suspension of the DRA's membership in the Islamic Conference Organization, it is necessary to stress that the decision is unjust and ungrounded. At the same time the DRA Foreign Ministry states with all responsibility that the DRA will not consider itself committed to decisions or resolutions taken at the conference in the absence of Afghanistan's delegation.

CULTURE MINISTER ADDRESSES ZABOL PROVINCE NFF MEETING

LD181806 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] The elders and religious leaders of the Tukhi, Hutak, Taraki and Pupalzai tribes of Zabol Province expressed their support for the preliminary preparations by the national and patriotic (?elements) assembly for the broad National Fatherland Front [NFF] congress at a meeting with Minister of Information and Culture 'Abdol Majid, held yesterday at the provincial headquarters in Qalat city. They warmly welcomed the comprehensive speech at the conference delivered by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister.

The minister of information and culture highlighted the aims of the NFF and urged the participation of all nationalities, tribes and various strata of the province in the national front for the purpose of achieving comfort for the toiling compatriots and prosperity of the dear homeland.

The BAKHTAR correspondent in Qalat city reports that subsequently the provincial committee secretary of Zabol Province spoke on the subject. At the end of the meeting a resolution by the assembly was read which was firmly supported and affirmed by the audience.

NABAVI ON HOSTAGE TALKS, AGREEMENT WITH U.S.

16 Jan Interview

JN161850 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] In light of the contradictory reports disseminated by the Western news agencies on Iran's proposals for the release of the hostages, PARS has recontacted engineer Behzad Nabavi, minister of state in charge of executive affairs and government spokesman. PARS asked him: The news agencies have described Iran's reply as a new and complicated (?method). What are these methods?

Engineer Behzad Nabavi replied: Contrary to the claims of the Western news agencies, which have seemingly based their reports on the U.S. officials' statements, our reply yesterday was absolutely neither complicated nor new. This, our reply, was conveyed to the United States 10 days ago via the Algerian Government.

Engineer Nabavi then vehemently protested against the Western news agencies, adding that these agencies have premeditatedly described Iran's practical, principled and simple proposals as complicated and new in order to serve Zionist goals.

He added that more than a week ago the Iranian Government conveyed its acceptance of the Algerian Government's statement, which was welcomed by the U.S. Government. He said that some partial differences were settled within 1 or 2 days.

Asked how to restore Iran's frozen assets, engineer Nabavi said that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran asked the U.S. Government through the Algerian Government to transfer all the agreed upon assets to a third country's central bank. He said that Iran's aim behind this proposal is to end the financial relations between Iran and the United States. This proposal, engineer Nabavi added, is a simple, practical and uncomplicated proposal that can possibly be accepted by all U.S. banks.

On the news agencies' reports that the deadline defined by Iran expires on 20 January, engineer Nabavi said: The Algerian Government's statement before the partial amendments, included the U.S. government's approval of 16 January being considered as a respite [muhlah musa'idah] in order to implement the necessary procedures should the anticipated agreement be reached. Since Washington said that the Carter government will lose its executive character after this date, therefore, the Iranian Government considers 16 January, today, as the last day for the negotiations and condemns every attempt to procrastinate and to gain time.

17 Jan PARS Interview

LD180834 Tehran PARS in English 0805 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Jan (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The Iranian Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Navabi said in an interview with PARS NEWS AGENCY in Tehran yesterday that Iran had received Friday night and Saturday morning a U.S. proposal for transferring the Iranian assets to a third country but that the Iranian (?Government) [words indistinct] separate memoranda at [words indistinct] yesterday further clarification on the terms and conditions of this transfer as proposed by the United States. He added the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was looking forward to an immediate reply from the American officials in charge of negotiations with the Algerian intermediaries. He said that the clarifications by the United States Government on this issue would be a great help to the solution of the hostage problem. The Iranian minister of state added that at the request of the Iranian Government a medical team from Algeria had arrived in Iran in order to examine the American hostages and to verify their good health.

Nabavi said that upon the request of the Iranian Government an Algerian aircraft was ready to take out the American hostages upon concluding the final agreement with the U.S. Government. The Iranian official said that if the U.S. Government was really concerned about the freedom of the hostages one could be optimistic about the eventual solution of the stalement.

18 Jan Interview

LD182202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2042 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Engineer Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs, in an interview with PARS tonight talked about the imminent release of the American hostages in the case that all Iranian demands are accepted. Nabavi said: In fact, the Government of America, against its will, faced with our uncompromising position and the pressure of world public opinion was forced to agree, through our Algerian brothers, with many of the demands of the Iranian Government, which had been raised in accordance with the resolution of the Majlis; only a few points are left, and we are waiting to hear from Algeria that they also have been agreed to.

Commenting on the particulars of the demands raised by Iran, he said: We have stuck in principle to the resolution of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, that either the proposals of the chosen deputies of the people of Iran on the fate of the hostages must be realized, or the hostages will stand trial. All discussions between the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Algerian delegation have followed the same criteria, and we have been able achieve our proposals in reality.

In reply to a question as to how he views the American position vis-a-vis solution of this issue, the minister of state for executive affairs said: We are still suspicious of the real American position, the same as before, but Washington's chosen style does not make any difference to us anyway, because in either case, whether the government of America agrees or not, the decision of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in clear.

Commenting on the time left to reach an agreement, engineer Nabavi said: We consider the time remaining in Carter's administration to be the last opportunity, and if during this period attention is not paid to the lawful and logical demands of the Muslim nation of Iran, which have been announced through Agleria, our policy will change completely.

At this point, the PARS correspondent said: The president-elect of America has tonight talked about his readiness to sign any kind of agreement with Iran if the hostages are freed. Given this comment, what will be the future form of the solution to the issue?

The minister of state for executive affairs said in reply: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the view expressed by Mr Reagan tonight as surprising and contrary to his propaganda point of view. We have absolutely nothing to say to a person who called our heroic people--who are seeking their rights--barbarians and blackmailers.

Commenting on the possible time of the release of the hostages, the minister of state for executive affairs said: The release of the hostages will be realized as soon as the American Government declares its full agreement with the resolution of the Majlis and the implemental proposals of the Government of Iran.

Commenting on American proposals put forward today, and Iran's replies, he said: In instances in which the proposals reaching us from Algeria did not basically differ from the principle of our position, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran did its best to solve the issue and showed the necessary flexibility, so that Washington could not make any excuses.

In reply to a question from the PARS correspondent about the fate of the Iranian assets, engineer Nabavi said: It has been agreed that all our deposits and cash which were frozen by the American Government should be placed at the disposal of the Government of Iran immediately, and the remainder of the assets in dispute will be settled through arbitration.

Continuing the interview and commenting on the issue of the presence of the Algerian doctors in Tehran, engineer Nabavi said: In the case of a probable agreement being reached, in order to prevent sensationalism being stage-managed in the future by America and its agents, the health of the hostages should be confirmed. Therefore we invited the Algerian doctors to come to Tehran for this purpose. Because of the complexity (?of the details) of the issue, engineer Nabavi refused to explain the details and postponed this to a press conference.

Second 18 Jan Interview

LD182121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2046 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Engineer Behzad Nabavi, the minister of state for executive affairs, a few minutes ago in an interview with a correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the issue of the hostages said America has agreed to Iran's proposals [pishnahadat]. We will now draw your attention to a recording of this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Nabavi?

[Answer] Please go ahead.

[Question] Could you please say what is the latest on the fate of the American hostages?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. After [word indistinct] hard work we put in this regard, as I am speaking to you right now [words indistinct] (?I) was informed that the U.S. Government has agreed to our latest views and proposals [words indistinct] and has expressed its readiness to sign the Algerian Government's statement. Thus I think the development has come to its conclusion.

[Question] We have been informed that, as regards Carter, a reply has been received on all points, except in the case of two extremely minor points. (?What has happened with this minor point)?

[Answer] Yes. As I have said, a few days ago we were informed through the Algerian Government that the U.S. Government had expressed its readiness to sign [words indistinct] for the Algerian Government with the amendments that had been proposed by us, and that at the same time it had started to transfer our deposits to a third country's central bank.

[Question] That being so, do you expect the hostages to be released in the next few days?

[Answer] Yes. Naturally. On the basis of the agreement reached, after the statement has been signed and the Algerian Government has announced...signed by both sides and the Algerian Government has announced it, and the deposits which according to prior agreement are scheduled to be deposited in an account of a third country's central bank have been deposited, the hostages will be released immediately.

[Question] In which third country will Iran's deposits be remitted?

[Answer] With the Algerian Government's agreement which it [words indistinct] had chosen the Bank of England. The American Government, these deposits [words indistinct] taken to the British Government, to Britain, and, of course, this account will be under the control of the Algerian Government, not the British Government.

[Question] My final question is that American officials have said tonight that in view of their experiences in the past, they regard the issue of the hostages [words indistinct]. Are there, in your view, other [word indistinct] points with regard to the issue of the hostages that these officials should have made such comments?

[Answer] Not from the Iranian Government's standpoint. They themselves might possibly [words indistinct]. This would concern [words indistinct].

[Questioner] Thank you very much. [end recording]

19 Jan Interview

LD191100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1038 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] In connection with actions taken so far to prepare the way for the release of the U.S. hostages, Behzad Nabavi, the minister of state for executive affairs, gave an interview to our correspondent. We draw your attention to the interview.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Nabavi, what has happened to the question of the hostages?

[Answer] [Pause] In recent [word indistinct] we reached a final result. The Algerian statement with regard to the outcome of the measures will possibly be published today. I can report to the Iranian nation another victory in this context.

[Question] It was reported that today the agreement between Iran and America will be signed today. Is this correct?

[Answer] Yes, it is in progress. Do not make a mistake, this is not an agreement. Foreign news agencies might want to take advantage of this issue. We will not sign any agreement with America, rather, it is the Algerian Government which will issue a statement with regard to the solution of the problem. We shall announce our agreement with the statement; the U.S. Government, too, will announce it. There will not be any agreement signed.

[Question] What steps are being taken toward the release of the hostages?

[Answer] We in fact will take the necessary steps to release the 52 hostages of the Iranian nation as soon as the statement issued by the Algerian Government is released and the Algerian Government officially informs us that our deposits and gold which were confiscated by the American Government have been deposited in a third country's central bank in an account of the Algerian Government. What we have already done at this juncture is that the medical team of the Algerian Government has been assigned to check their state of health and prepare the necessary reports and memos.

[Question] Have you taken any (?step) in connection with [word indistinct] relations?

[Answer] This is an issue in which I am not involved. Surely, if there are measures taken this will be announced in due course.

[Question] Therefore, their condition is such as to enable them to fly out?

[Answer] Their condition is not yet--they are not ready yet. As I said, they will be prepared to fly out only when the Algerian Government announces that our deposits have been depositied in a third country's central bank and also when it releases its statement.

[Question] The Ministry of [words indistinct] has announced that there will be a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria. What are the issues to be discussed there and do you think that this will be held today or not?

[Answer] It is precisely in this connection, and I hope that it will be held today. It is in connection with the statement of the Algerian Government and I hope that it will be held today.

[Questioner] Thank you for your explanations. [end recording]

U.S. 11th Hour 'Vacillations'

LD190852 Tehran PARS in English 0811 GMT 19 Jan 81

["Nabavi Says Iran's Stand Is Clear and Unambiguous"--PARS headline]

[Text] Tehran, 19 Jan (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran sent its final proposals for the solution of the hostage crisis to the Algerian intermediaries at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday (22:30 p.m. Saturday GMT). Iran's final response was handed over to the Algerian intermediaries in the wake of the exchange of memoranda between Iran and the U.S. Government through the Algerians. The Iranian minister of state in charge of executive affairs, Behzad Nabavi, said in Tehran today that the U.S.' replies to Iran's questions also included five suggestions of comparatively lesser importance to which Iran responded in a manner necessary for bringing the stalemate to its end. Nabavi siad that up to 17:00 p.m. yesterday (13:30 GMT) Iran had received four notes from the U.S. Government which were immediately reviewed by the Iranian officials and for which replies were sent immediately.

He added that Iran and the U.S. Government still differed over a minor issue in relation to the problem, but noted that it was rather insignificant and could be resolved if the American Government really sought a solution for the problem. "What sounds strange to us in the face of our efforts," said he, "is Washington's continuous vacillations, which take place always at the eleventh hour and which makes one dubious and suspicious about the good will of the U.S. Government in solving the problem."

Asked about whether such "vacillations" were fundamental, Nabavi said that they were not but that such a "capricious appraoch" to the issue wastes time, and delays the solving of the issue.

The Iranian official said that the U.S. Government had submitted a new proposal to Iran, to which the Iranian Government replied promptly. He said that already each and every obstacle for the eventual solution of the issue had been surmounted and that only a decisive determination by the U.S. Government, its firmness of approach, and its promptness in acting would ensure the return of the hostages to their families. Nabavi said that the proposals for solving the issue were thoroughly simple and unequivocal in order to obviate the possibility of any evasive tactics by the U.S. Government.

Agreement Reached

LD190853 Tehran PARS in English 0817 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 19 Jan (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States finally reached agreement on resolving the issue of the hostages yesterday, said the Iranian Minister of State in Charge of Executive Affairs Dr Behzad Nabavi in Tehran at [words indistinct] yesterday.

He said the Iranian Government had received a response from the U.S. Government through Algeria for which it had been waiting since Saturday. He added that the U.S. reply contained points on which the sides had reached agreement. The Iranian official added that insofar as the Iranian Government is concerned there only remains several wholly trivial points which had to be agreed upon which had been created merely as a result of modifications received in the U.S. proposals yesterday. He said the Iranian Government had already forwarded proper replies to the most recent U.S. proposals through the Algerian intermediaries. Nabavi said that as far as Iran was concerned there were absolutely no reasons for preventing the stalemate from its eventual solution now.

DEVELOPMENTS LEADING TO OFFICIAL HOSTAGE AGREEMENT

Arrival of Financial Delegation

LD162022 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Minister for Foreign Affairs Brother Mohammed Ben Yahia, today received U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has been in Algiers for well over a week now. The meeting took place at the request of Mr Christopher within the framework of the current negotiations between Iran and the United States through Algerian mediation. These talks were preceded by a meeting between them yesterday at the Foreign Ministry headquarters. Meanwhile, a delegation of U.S. legal and financial experts arrived in Algiers at noon today.

U.S., British Delegations

LD162036 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Excerpts] We have mentioned the arrival this afternoon in Algiers of a delegation of American and British financial experts. Soon after its arrival the delegation began work with a group of Algerian experts. One has perhaps to wait for the next few hours to know the results of the intensive efforts exerted by the two sides in order to reach a settlement of the hostages question.

Financial Working Session

LD170012 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Soon after their arrival in Algiers, the members of the delegation of American and British legal and financial experts met with a group of Algerian experts. It is believed that the working session, which ended about 2000 GMT was devoted to looking into the terms and conditions for returning to Tehran the Iranian assets frozen by the United States.

Financial Statement Arrival

NC170936 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Jan (AFP)--Iranian officials this morning confirmed the arrival via Algeria of the U.S. final text of financial conditions for release of the 52 American hostages. The authorities here began an immediate study of the documents, informed sources added. The text was drawn up after 11 hours of talks which ended in Washington last night.

Plane Requested

TA171007 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Here is a report which has just arrived in the news room: The French radio announced some time ago that Iran asked Algiers to prepare a plane and a medical crew to fly the U.S. hostages. This is reported by our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus.

Airport Closure Denied

NC171045 Paris AFP in English 1040 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Jan (AFP)--Police today denied an earlier report that the Iranian capital's Mehrabad Airport had been closed to international flights until tomorrow morning. The report, from airport officials, came as Iranian authorities studied a final U.S. text on financial conditions for the release of the American hostages.

Medical Team to Tehran

LD171234 Algiers APS in English 1225 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 17 Jan (APS)--At the request of the Iranian Government, Algerian doctors are on their way to Tehran to examine the health of American citizens detained in Iran, on board an Algerian airliner.

Christopher Meets Ben Yahia

NC171255 Paris AFP in ENglish 1245 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Algiers, 17 Jan (AFP)--Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, leader of the U.S. delegation negotiating release of the hostages in Iran, went to the Algerian Foreign Ministry today apparently to meet Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia. Moments before, Iranian Charge d'Affaires 'Arab Asghar visited Mr Ben Yahia with a note from Tehran, Algerian sources said without indicating the contents of the message. Algeria is mediating in the dispute.

Raja'i Spokesman Denies Rumors

GF171306 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] An official source at the prime minister's office this morning denied rumors on the release of the American hostages during the current week. He added: Until a final agreement has been reached and the auxilliary reply [ar-radd al-musa'id] to all Iranian conditions has been received, no precise date can be fixed for the hostages' release.

Tehran Deliberations

GF171520 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran received a memorandum from the Algerian Embassy in Tehran last night at midnight notifying it that the U.S. Government has expressed its views regarding the amendment that the Majlis proposed be added to the arbitration article. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently discussing these views. The results of the discusstion will be announced later.

The arbitration article proposed by the Majlis says: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has the prerogative to resolve and (?postpone) financial and legal differences between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the U.S. Government through arbitration acceptable to the two parties. The amendment to this article drawn up by the Majlis has [word indistinct] the differences in the agreements that provide for referring differences on these agreements to the Iranian courts concerned.

Ayat on Hostages Release

JN171700 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1620 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Excerpts] In a statement to the Tehran TIMES newspaper, Hasan Ayat, a leading figure in Iran known for being strict on the hostages' issue, said that the hostages will be released during the first days of U.S. President-elect Reagan's presidency. The Iranian leader said in the statement which was published today that Reagan can solve the problem more easily than President Jimmy Carter.

17 Jan Damascus Report

JN171658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1627 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers--It is expected that the next few hours will witness a final solution for the issue of the U.S. hostages in Tehran. It is also expected that the hostages will arrive in Algiers later today, where the Algerian Government will then hand them over to the U.S. Government through Warren Christopher, U.S. deputy secretary of state, who has been in Algiers for 11 days.

A SANA correspondent in Algiers cited reliable sources here as saying that the hostages issue is on its way to a final solution after 14 months and after the United States has yielded to the legitimate Iranian demands. Those sources pointed out that the final texts [as heard] of the agreement between Iran and the United States regarding this issue have been prepared and are expected to be released later today in Algiers, Washington and Tehran.

The Algerian Foreign Minister witnessed yesterday and today intensive activity through meetings between Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, Warren Christopher and the Iranian charge d'affairs in Algiers and through the talks of the U.S. delegation of legal and financial experts with a delegation of Algerian experts to make final arrangements to the final solution.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the agreement reached between Iran and the United States regarding the frozen Iranian assets in the United States stipulates for, in its first stage, the transfer of $1 billion in gold, which is now present in London. The second stage of the agreement stipulates for the selling of the Iranian bonds which are available now at the U.S. federal reserve. On the other hand, the SANA correspondent has learned that the Algerian foreign minister has postponed his departure for At-Ta'if to take part in the Islamic foreign ministers conference until later today in order to follow up this issue.

Doctors' Visit Delayed

OW171744 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Jan (AFP)--Six Algerian doctors, who arrived in Tehran today, will not be able to see the 52 American hostages before Sunday, well-informed sources here said. The doctors went to Tehran at the invitation of Iranian authorities "to confirm the good health of the hostages" and "avoid all loss of time if the hostages should be released," Iran's PARS NEWS AGENCY said. There were no immediate indications as to why the doctors were not allowed to see the hostages today.

Algerian Source: Release 'Near'

LD181126 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Algiers--An unidentified Algerian official told journalists a few moments ago that the end of the hostage issue is near. The Algerian authorities have in fact decided to close to traffic certain zones of the Algiers airport, and preparations are underway to enable radios and televisions from all over the world to cover the events. We do not yet know the itinerary of the hostages when they are freed, but preparations underway suggest that they will go to Algiers first.

An Air-Algerie airliner carrying newsmen is due to leave Algiers today for Tehran in order to enable these newsmen to report first-hand on the freeing of the hostages.

Second Plane Report Denied

NC181254 Paris AFP in English GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 18 Jan (AFP)--Algeria today denied that a second aircraft had been sent to Tehran ready to bring home the United States Embassy hostages.

An authoritative Algerian source said that no plane had gone to Tehran apart from one yesterday carrying a team of doctors to examine the hostages at the invitation of the Iranian Government. No aircraft would be sent to pick up the hostages before agreement between the United States and Iran had finally been reached on their release, the source said. The source also denied reports that a group of Algerian journalists had been flown to Tehran to cover the release of the hostages.

Notes on 'Technical' Matters

NC181300 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Jan (AFP)--Iranian officials confirmed today that the rate of exchange of notes among Tehran, Washington and Algiers had increased. The notes concerned "technical aspects" of the agreement being threshed out in the capitals on unfreezing Iranian assets in the United States, the sources added.

Algerian Doctors Remain

NC181520 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Jan (AFP)--The special Algerian plane that arrived here yesterday with a team of six Algerian doctors to examine the U.S. Embassy hostages today left the Iranian capital, informed sources said. The doctors, who were summoned by the Iranian Government to "confirm the good health of the hostages," had not yet met the hostages by late afternoon local time, the reports said. Sources at their hotel confirmed that the doctors were still in the Iranian capital and had not left on the departing flight.

PARS: Agreement Reached

NC181623 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Jan (AFP)--Iran and the United States have reached agreement on the means to solve the hostages question, Iranian Executive Affairs Minister Behzad Nabavi said [word indistinct] quoted by the Paris new agency.

Final Document Being Prepared

LD182334 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] The release of the U.S. hostages: The final adjustments to the agreement can only be a matter of hours, if one refers to the succession of press agency dispatches which have been pouring in today. The negotiations between the United States and Iran continue in an intensive manner through the intermediary of Algeria. Mr Warren Christopher, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, has been in Algiers for 10 days. He has had many meetings with our foreign minister, Mohamed Ben Yahia; twice today at the ministry.

In Washington, President Carter is closely following the situation in the company of his closest collaborators, but the White House has not reacted to the statement by the chief Iranian negotiator, Mr Nabavi, in which he said that the United States had accepted the Iranian conditions for the release of the hostages and that the American authorities were ready to sign the final document with Iran.

Mr Nabavi added that the release of the hostages will take place after the signing of a final communique by the two sides, the signing of the agreement and the transfer of Iranian funds from the United States.

Meanwhile, the White House secretary said that all arrangements had been completed so that the agreement could be put into immediate effect as soon as the official announcement had been made. No serious obstacle is in the way. At the present time the translation of the final document is underway. It is expected that all will be completed before the inauguration of President-elect Ronald Reagan.

Negotiations Continue

LD190314 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Intensive negotiations between the United States and Iran continue through Algerian mediation. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has been staying in Algiers since 8 January, held a number of meetings with Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia. Yesterday, two sessions of talks took place at the Foreign Ministry headquarters. Ben Yahia and Christopher met late last night.

Translation Delay

LD190121 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0100 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] In the expectation of official confirmation of the U.S.-Iranian agreement for the release of the hostages, the team of Algerian doctors entrusted with carrying out checks on the state of health of the 52 hostages is still in Tehran. In Algiers Messrs Ben Yahia and Warren Christopher, respectively Algerian foreign minister and U.S. deputy secretary of state, have had two meetings this Sunday. A few hours ago it was being said by official Washington sources that the announcement of the final agreement between Iran and the United States is being delayed by the translation of the text of the documents into French, English and Persian.

Announcement Delay

LD190610 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] A while ago a report came from Washington saying that the United States has finally agreed to the agreement which was concluded in Algiers between the United States and Iran concerning the U.S. hostages in Tehran.

It was expected that the details of the agreement would be released today. However, some technical aspects of the agreement might delay its publication for a few hours.

Announcement Expected

LD190727 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Two Algerian Boeing 727 planes have reached Ankara civilian airport this morning on their way to Tehran, the Iranian capital, to transport the U.S. citizens detained there, after both Tehran and Washington have announced agreement.

It is worth mentioning that this final agreement was reached yesterday and was approved by both the Iranian and the American sides. It was supposed to be announced yesterday but the technical issues concerning translation of all its legal texts and comparing them to the English, Persian and French languages delayed for some timethe announcement of the agreement.

The final agreement between Iran and Washington will, however, be announced officially in Algiers at any moment, as all the necessary arrangements have been made. It was also learned that all details of the agreement will be announced at a press conference.

The final Iranian-U.S. agreement concerning the 52 persons detained comes after a week of contacts and intensive talks in Washington, Algiers and Tehran, and after a series of meetings and telephone contacts between these capitals for the purpose of overcoming the difficulties gradually to settle the issue. It became a race with time as U.S. President Carter will leave the presidency tomorrow evening, 20 January, to be succeeded by President-elect Ronald Reagan.

According to informed sources the final Iranian-American agreement calls for the Bank of England, as a go-between, to transfer the Iranian funds and deposits from the United States to the Algerian Central Bank. Afterwards, these funds will be transferred to Iran. Observers explain this by saying that the Bank of England had maintained firm relations with the Iranian Central Bank, as officials of the latter paid a visit to London. According to the latest reports, an Iranian plane had taken off from Tehran airport this morning for Algeria. According to diplomatic sources the Iranian plane might be carrying texts of the final agreement with the United States; these texts carry the official signature of the major Iranian negotiator concerning the hostages issue, Mr Behzad Nabavi. It was also stated that Mr Behzad Nabavi will hold a press conference later today in Tehran which he will devote to the question of the final agreement with the United States.

Doctors Leave Tehran Hotel

NC190742 Paris AFP in English 0737 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 19 Jan (AFP)--The six Algerian doctors here to check the "good health" of the 52 United States Embassy hostages left their hotel by a side door early today for an undisclosed destination, sources at the hotel said. Their baggage remained in their rooms, the sources added.

When he announced the U.S. acceptance of Iranian conditions yesterday, Iran's chief negotiator, Behzad Nabavi, said the doctors would have to check the hostages before they left captivity to avoid any later complaints about their health.

Newsmen Called to Ministry

NC190815 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 19 Jan (AFP)--Newsmen have been called to the Algerian Foreign Ministry to witness the signing ceremony of the U.S.-Iranian agreement on the hostages release due at "any moment". The invitation was sent by telex from the Foreign Ministry to international press agencies.

Tehran Airport Security

NC190834 Paris AFP in English 0821 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Tehran, 19 Jan (AFP)--The official announcement by the Iranian authorities that they have accepted the agreement with the United States for the release of the Tehran hostages is expected very shortly, a reliable source said here.

Widespread security measures have already been installed round the airport. Only official passholders were being admitted and cars were being moved away, but the specific arrangements for the liberation and departure of the hostages were still unknown.

U.S. 'Signs' Agreement

LD190918 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] The hostages affair is monopolizing the attention of international news. The long Iranian-American talks are likely to be concluded today.

The agreement for the freeing of the 52 hostages has already been signed this morning by Mr Warren Christopher. The only thing we are waiting for now is the final approval of the document by Iran. In Tehran, Mr Nabavi, chief Iranian negotiator in the hostages affair is due to give a press conference at 1100 GMT during which he will give details on the agreement.

AFP on U.S. 'Initialing'

NC190916 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 19 Jan (AFP)--United States Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher today initialled three Algerian declarations setting forth the terms of the agreement to free 52 U.S. hostages. Mr. Christopher signed two separate 12-page documents. At his side was Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia and standing behind them were all senior members of the American negotiating team and the three Algerian intermediaries.

Planes Leave Ankara for Tehran

LD190910 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Everything seems ready now for ending the issue of the U.S. hostages in Tehran. Diplomatic circles in Tehran, Washington and Algeria expect an official announcement on this matter within the next few hours. Two Algerian planes have just left Ankara for Tehran to pick up the American hostages immediately upon the expected official announcement.

Details of Signing Ceremony

LD190949 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0932 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] We have just received an urgent dispatch from the APS news agency:

At 0830 Warren Christopher, the American deputy secretary of state, initialed the points of agreement to be contained in the Algerian Government's announcement which has been approved by the Iranian and American Governments.

The U.S. State Department at 0355 handed over to the Algerian Embassy charge d'affaires in Washington a message signed by President Carter and U.S. Secretary of State Muskie giving Warren Christopher the authority to sign the agreement.

The signing ceremony took place the conference hall at the Foreign Ministry in the presence of Brother Mohammed Ben Yahia, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, who handed Warren Christopher the text of the final Iranian-American agreement. On this occasion, Brother Ben Yahia delivered a speech to which Warren Christopher replied expressing his warmest gratitude to the Algerian people and their leaders for their effective contribution to securing the release of the American hostages. Ben Yahia and Christopher then shook hands. Earlier, prior to the signing ceremony, the two men met at the Foreign Ministry in Algiers.

Doctors Leave Algerian Embassy

NC191008 Paris AFP in English 1001 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 19 Jan (AFP)--The six Algerian doctors here to check the "good health" of the 52 United States Embassy hostages left the Algerian Embassy here for an undisclosed destination about midday local time today, an Iranian journalist who witnessed their departure reported.

The doctors, who had earlier slipped out of their hotel by a side door, were driven away accompanied by revolutionary guards in a large American car with the windows covered with cardboard, the journalist said.

Reporters and photographers waiting outside the embassy were jostled and pushed back by guards and films of photographers and cameramen were confiscated without any reasons being given.

AFP: Agreement Announced

NC191034 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 19 Jan (AFP)--The official annoucement of the agreement between the United States and Iran for the release of the 52 American hostages was made here today.

Doctors Examine Hostages

LD191047 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1033 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Following the U.S. acceptance of Iran's terms for the release of the hostages, preliminary medical examinations of the hostages have begun. According to a Central News Bureau reporter who was present at the hostages' residence, six Algerian doctors have started the medical examinations.

Algerian Planes Arrive

NC191038 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 19 Jan (AFP)--Two Algerian planes which refuelled in Ankara at dawn today and are to stop over in the Turkish capital again "in the course of the afternoon" arrived in Tehran around 0840 GMT, it was reported at the airport.

Nabavi Press Conference Plan

LD191133 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1041 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Behzad Nabavi, minister of state in charge of executive affairs, together with two other responsible officials of the office of the prime minister, will answer the questions of our dear listeners in connection with the hostages directly from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran through telephone numbers 290087 and 290088--I repeat, 290087 and 290088--after this bulletin and the broadcast of imam's speech.

Also he will take part in a press, radio and television interview this afternoon and will give a detailed account of the release of the hostages this evening.

Algiers Announces Agreement

LD191112 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] At 1020 GMT the official announcement of the official provisions of the agreement between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the release of the American hostages was made at the Algerian Foreign Ministry. The Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman also announced the Algerian Government's statement on the signing of the agreement.

TEHRAN MEDIA ON HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS, AGREEMENT

Hostage Taking 'About To End'

LD162310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2112 GMT 16 Jan 81

[From the "Familiar Voice" program]

[Text] These days the issue of hostages is undergoing examination. It is necessary to raise two points at this stage: First, the government's role in the taking of the hostages and, secondly, the consequences of this act:

As far as the government's decisionmaking role is concerned, it has only acted as the enforcer of Majlis decrees and will continue to do so. As for the agreement which is expected to be reached, it will have to be approved by the Majlis. Consequently, it ought to be pointed out that the agreements reached make evident the implementation of the Majlis' decisions. In this connection, it is also necessary to mention that whatever is exchanged between the Iranian and the Algerian Governments concerning the resolving of the hostages issue has not been, and is not, divorced from the views already expressed by the nation's assembly; that the government shall never act arbitrarily in this connection.

As for the second point, there are some important points which must be dealt with methodically. There were a great many people who considered the hostage taking as a mistake; they still do. There are many who are under the impression that Iran has shown flexibility toward America. However, what is obvious is that the hostage taking is about to end now that it has already left its mark and its aims have already been achieved.

The most essential benefit of the hostage taking, as pointed out by our imam, is the defeat of an idol called America--an idol considered by the public as inviolable. If we claimed that the taking of the hostages alone brought about this result, then we would not be too far off course; for, at a time when the law of capitulation still ruled in America as far as the Third World was concerned [as heard], in a country where Americans were treated as masters for quite a long time, U.S. spy diplomats were arrested in the most disgraceful manner. This means the arresting of colonialism.

The beauty of the point goes as far as the remarks made by a U.S. senator, who referred to the hostage taking as the holding of America as hostage. This issue would provide the dominated countries the temerity to recognize America in its paper tiger shell, rather than as a superpower against whose bullying no country could resist. This daring and power are unforgettable.

Another issue is that America has undertaken [ta'hod] not to interfere in Iran's affairs from now on. This, perhaps, is a great blessing, that America's interference in Iran has ended. The hostage taking also signifies another problem: America has been forced to retreat step by step from the actions taken by Iran. Sixteen months of holding outstanding U.S. diplomats as hostages led to such a puppet show of colonialism, wherein, more than anyone else, it was the U.S. President who danced. Perhaps in the face of no other problem has America witnessed so much courage and resistance or has put up with so much trouble. It was defeated by the revolution step by step and retreated.

The Tabas incident and America's attempted coup d'etat not only did not scare Iran and thus bring about the handing over of the hostages but rather increased our nation's anger more than ever. We saw that neither of the two incidents could bring America any success, for on both accounts it had to admit defeat. This, too, is yet another success of our Islamic revolution, which has not submitted to America's crimes: We refused to compromise.

However, now that the question of the hostages is about to end through Algeria's intermediation, we once again notice that America is planning to create an atmosphere in which to pressure Iran. In this connection, one of Reagan's advisers said that the Reagan administration should warn the Iranian Government that if the hostages are not freed within 5 days, then America would declare war on Iran. Then another source expressed the view that if by the end of Carter's term of office the problem is not resolved, then Iran will have to start negotiations with the Reagan administration from zero. All these attempts at creating such an atmosphere are aimed at making us agree to any conditions set by America for fear of what the future holds. The point is that all of these moves are intended to drag us toward a more flexible position; otherwise, the Reagan administration, too, will have to deal with this problem. All these moves are aimed at creating fear in us. This, too, is a probable agreement between Carter and Reagan.

What is clear is that the Iranian Government, the Majlis and the nation believe that we must achieve our aims. Should these aims be achieved during Carter's term of office, so be it; otherwise, it is not difficult for us to start the negotiations with Reagan from zero. In such a case, the problem which landed in Carter's lap would also be a calamity for Reagan.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAM: U.S. 'Surrenders'

JN190915 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Jan 81

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the banner headline "United States Surrenders To Iranian Demands," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI highlights the report that the Carter administration has agreed to the conditions dictated by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI publishes a statement made to its correspondent by a responsible and informed source. Commenting on the U.S. Government's agreement to the Iranian conditions, this source said: As of today, the struggle against the United States has entered a new phase. When making their final decision, the Americans must bear in mind the strength of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the iron will of the Iranian people.

Commenting on the U.S. Government's agreement to the Iranian conditions under the headline "The United States Cannot Do Anything." JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI says: In one of his earlier statements on U.S. threats against the Iranian Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution, said: The United States cannot do anything.

The paper adds: Indeed, the United States cannot do anything. This has been proved after the lapse of 435 days since the detention of the U.S. hostages in Tehran. Thus, after the lapse of 435 days since the detention of the hostages, that courageous and revolutionary act undertaken by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, the United States has surrendered to the conditions dictated by the government of the Islamic revolution to release the hostages.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI concludes: The triumph of the Iranian Islamic revolution over the haughty world power has verified the imam's predictions when he said: The Iranian people are strong and the United States cannot do anything.

Damascus Cites Press on 'Victory'

JN181647 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran--Today's Iranian newspapers have said that the United States has at last admitted its defeat in the hostages issue after the elapse of 14 months in the most complicated crisis the United States has faced in its history.

The newspapers consider the end of the hostages issue as a victory for the Iranian revolution. They called on the citizens not to heed slogans that might be released from now on which will insinuate that the settling of the hostage issue has taken place in the framework of neogtiations with the United States.

The papers said that Iran has achieved its goals in detaining the hostages, particularly its major goal of defiantly confronting the United States and acquainting the world with the crimes the United States committed against the Iranian people.

They added that as long as the Iranian revolution has achieved its objectives behind the operation, there is no longer an excuse to continue detaining the hostages.

Commentary on Carter, Reagan

LD181524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1116 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Excerpts] In 3 days' time, Carter, the former U.S. President [as heard] and the democratic nominee during the past elections, shall hand over his post to Ronald Reagan, a man whose $170-billion military budget clearly shows that he adheres to militaristic policies. Ronald Reagan is stepping into the White House when the rate of inflation has drastically risen in America. Moreover, in view of the tension in the Persian Gulf Region, America's prestige and power as a superpower has diminished. However, before talking about Reagan and his problems, it is worth having a look at U.S. policy during Carter's administration.

During Carter's term of office, U.S. imperialism, having lost its puppet regime in Iran and the victory of the Islamic revolution, suffered the severest blow, particularly when considering the hostage taking. This doubled the severity of the blow, to the extent that it totally diminished U.S. political prestige and reputation and, in fact, crushed the phoney giant of imperialism.

The most important problem which faced Carter during his presidency was the hostage issue, a crisis that not only Jimmy Carter, but all great world statesmen and powers failed to analyze [correctly]. Here again the democrats' big headache. Carter's aggressive policies vis-a-vis Iran, the Tabas incident and the failure of a military coup attempt, were among other disgraceful defeats suffered by American policy.

All these difficulties culminated in bringing a man such as Ronald Reagan to power; in particular, the question of hostage taking and Carter's defeat in this regard played an important role. Reagan, a former actor in western films, enjoys 75 percent support among Zionist companies. By appointing such advisers as George Bush, former director of the CIA, Henry Kissinger and Gerald Ford, these Zionist companies strengthened Reagan, culminating in his election victory. However, the appointment of Alexander Haig, the Pentagon's executioner general in Vietnam, as secretary of state, and the regaining of power by Kissinger, this broker for the Zionists, as well as the coming to power of George Bush, the former director of the CIA--all these indicate that the new U.S. President's policy will be a draconian one, intertwined with an increasing military intervention strategy, especially in the Persian Gulf region. However, all these will not be able to avert the collapse of the U.S. empire.

Reagan must realize that should he pursue a militaristic policy it will not only lead to an explosion in the Persian Gulf and the Third World, but that with popular movements gaining momentum, it would hasten the collapse of U.S. imperialism. This has been proved and shall be proved by history.

KHOMEYNI HOLDS TALKS WITH BANI-SADR 18 JAN

JN181150 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] PARS reports that Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, met this morning with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the nation and the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dr Bani-Sadr held talks with his eminence.

AFP on Talks

NC170922 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Jan (AFP)--Officials today confirmed that Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has returned here from the Khuzestan war front for talks with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, but denied they were connected with the hostage issue.

The meeting was to discuss the situation on the front, where Mr Bani-Sadr has been for the past 25 days in his role as commander in chief of Iranian forces fighting Iraq, presidential aviser Musavi Garmarudi said.

"The president has had nothing to do with the hostages for the past seven months, after saying at the time he did not wish to become involved in the affair," Mr Garmarudi told the Tehran TIMES.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES ARDABILI, MAJLIS DEPUTY

LD171118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1035 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi Ardabili, prosecutor general, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Anzabi, a deputy in the Islamic Consultative Assembly were separately received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

BANI-SADR CHAIRS DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING

LD182220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council held a session tonight under the chairmanship of Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, and attended by the members of the council. During the session the situation on the war fronts was reviewed.

RAJA'I RETURNS TO TEHRAN FROM KHORASAN MEETING

LD161812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, who had travelled to Khorasan Province in order to attend the joint meeting of the Council of Ministers and governors general, returned to Tehran at 1830 following a visit to Neyshabur and Sabzevar.

RAJA'I CHAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

LD172116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2039 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] The Council of Ministers [hey'at dowlat] held a meeting tonight chaired by Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. According to a Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic's correspondent, in the course of the meeting, which lasted until 2200, various state issues were discussed. At the end of the meeting, 'Abbas Duzduzani, the minister of national guidance, gave an interview to our correspondent, saying: In addition to various state issues, the meeting also discussed the election of a representative from the executive branch to the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

DETAILS OF 18 JAN MAJLIS SESSION REPORTED

LD181308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1039 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Excerpt] The Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open meeting today. The meeting began at 0830 this morning with a recitation from the holy Koran. The meeting was presided by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani. During the meeting, the second reading of the draft bill on integrating the oppressed nation mobilization organization in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was debated and accepted after explanations by the commission's secretary [as heard, commission unspecified] and speeches for and against.

Our correspondent reports that Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, attending the meeting, presented to the Majlis six government bills. Four of the six bills were submitted on a priority-one [yek foriyati] basis. Following explanations by the prime minister and speeches for and against, urgency of all the four bills was accepted. The government's bills as submitted to the Majlis are as follows:

1. The priority bill pertaining to the allocation of 3 billion rials for necessary and urgent expenditures, particularly to help the disabled and war victims;

2. The priority bill pertaining to amendment of certain provision, in the 1980-81 budget;

3. The prioity bill pertaining to the prosecution of draft dodgers during wartime, as well as the question of length of military service;

4. The priority bill pertaining to rebuilding manpower in ministries and departments as well as government-affiliated institutes;

5. The bill dealing with the ownership of hospitals and private clinics which have been established through government loans and whose owners or boards of directors, or their administrators and directors, have failed to comply with regulations, provisions or undertakings;

6. The bill to collect taxes from nonpassenger vehicles and amending certain direct tax articles and subsequent amendments. [sentence as heard]

Continuing his speech, the speaker of the Majlis said: Another point I would like to raise is to express my gratitude to the profound and appropriate advice provided by the imam, who has always during sensitive and crucial moments averted overexcitement and deviations. He has a wider horizon than we ordinary people.

For my part, and in my capacity as speaker of the Majlis, I wish to express my gratitude for his advice. I promise that, as it has already demonstrated, the Majlis will sincerely and with gratitude remain obedient and alert to carry out his instructions. If anything was said in the Majlis aimed at weakening the president or the government--something which we do not expect--immediately after the imam's speech, this is not the view held by the Majlis and should not be applied to everyone in the Majlis.

AFP Report

NC180730 Paris AFP in English 0726 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Jan (AFP)--The Iranian parliament went into session again today but the expected debate on nationalising the ex-shah's fortune did not figure on the agenda. The government had introduced a bill seeking nationalisation of the imperial family's assets around the world for subsequent "confiscation." The issue was put off at the last Majlis (parliament) session on Wednesday, when deputies concentrated on a bill aimed at empowering the government to seek arbitration on key aspects of the hostage dispute. A deputy close to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said after that sitting that the release of the 52 American hostages did not hinge on the nationalisation bill going through parliament.

STATEMENT PROVIDES MAJLIS BROADCAST FREQUENCIES

LD172138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the public relations office of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with broadcasting Majlis public sessions:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With regard to questions raised by our dear brothers and sisters by telephone and in their letters concerning the broadcast of public sessions of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, we inform the noble and Muslim Iranian nation:

1. Since the inception of the Majlis' work, the details of debates taking place in the public sessions of the Majlis have been broadcast on 91.3 on the FM band and on the 225-meter band on the medium wave, corresponding to 1882 mHz by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The broadcasts cover Tehran-Garmsar, Tehran-Ab 'Ali, Tehran-Kashan and Tehran-Abhar;

2. Majilis debates are also directly broadcast from centers in Mashhad on 94.7 kHz on FM; in Esfahan on 100.18 kHz on FM; in Shiraz on 106 kHz on FM; in Kermanshahan on 106 kHz on FM; in Tabriz on the 260-meter band on AM, corresponding to 1152 kHz; and in Sari on the 216-meter band on AM, corresponding to 1386 kHz;

3. A number of the organization's centers in other cities, enjoying the cooperation of the technical staff of the Voice and Vision, will broadcast the Majlis debates shortly. The names of these centers will be announced later. Meanwhile, you are also informed that debates taking place at the open meetings of the Majlis, which used to be broadcast by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, have been stopped for some time for the following reasons: The heavy costs in recording and broadcasting debates of the public sessions and the lack of adequate time to broadcast a variety of good programs, considering the length of debates, especially when we consider that a minimum of 3 and 1/2 hours has to be devoted to each meeting.

We hope that, considering the existing sensitive conditions in our Islamic revolution, when the brave and Muslim Iranian nation, led by the imam of the nation, the iconoclastic Khomeyni, is engaged in a formal [rasmi] war with world-devouring America, when it is in the process of bringing the good news to the world's oppressed peoples so that they will be freed from the diabolical grip of the superpowers, our Muslim and committed brothers and sisters, having taken cognizance of the aforementioned points and the facilities available to the Voice and Vision in broadcasting the debates taking place in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, would discourage counterrevolutionary and naive elements from spreading rumors and, through their joint cooperation, help create a healthy and Islamic climate and materialize the wish of our dear imam and the noble nation by creating a large Islamic university out of this organization.

SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL ON CIVILIAN MORALE, WAR

LD161812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] PARS reports that the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council issued the following announcement this evening:

In His Exalted name. Following the speech made yesterday by the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during an audience given to bazaar tradesmen and other classes of people, the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council deems it necessary to point out the following:

1. As repeatedly stated by the imam, our main problem these days is to drive out the aggressive enemy from the homeland of the Islamic revolution, and that to raise any other peripheral issue would have direct and unfavorable consequences on the fate of the war;

2. To raise peripheral issues and to mount excessive propaganda about the positive and negative results of the war would undoubtedly have an impact on public opinion, people's morale and the combatants fighting on the fronts. If it continues without proper consideration and in an uncontrolled fashion it will result in disturbing coordination, creating differences and demoralizing the self-sacrificing Islamic fighters;

3. To discuss the war in public will not only make military information available to the enemy more cheaply than can be imagined, but it will also contribute toward creating a climate of distrust and help to bring about differences and a weakening of the morale of the people and the combatants of the Islamic revolution;

4. In recent days we have witnessed the publication of statements, telegrams and speeches in the media. These issues have collectively brought about irregular conditions in connection with war issues, thus resulting in over-hasty optimism and pessimism;

5. In view of the afforementioned points, the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council, which is responsible for supervising the publicity given to the war, call on all officials responsible for the mass media unfailingly to coordinate any news report, statement, telegram and speech pertaining to war issues with the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council before publishing them, so that issues related to the war are formulated in a manner which will avoid harming the will of the people and of the self-sacrificing fighters who are fighting on the fronts of the war between faith and blasphemy.

OLOF PALME IN TEHRAN FOR MEDIATION TALKS

Arrival, 17 Jan

LD170946 Tehran PARS in English 0745 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Jan (PARS)--Olof Palme, the former Swedish prime minister and special envoy of the United Nations organization who was recently visiting Baghdad, arrived in Tehran at 3:30 p.m. yesterday. He was accompanied by his special legal advisor, Mr Georgen and his special deputy Mr Larson and his spokesman Mr Reza Eqbal.

Rafsanjani Meeting

LD181820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau reports that Olof Palme, the special envoy of the UN secretary general, and his entourage this evening met and conferred in the Majlis building with Hojjat Ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

During the meeting, Olof Palme stated: I am closely following the victory of the Iranian revolution, and I hope that you will be successful in building a free Iran. I know that the war has caused much damage and that it is a big obstacle to the rebuilding of your country. I have been assigned to bring the views of the two sides closer to each other and to find a solution leading to peace. Initially I have tried to arrive at the principles that could become the basis for peace. These principles consist of the principle of banning the use of force to gain control over another's land, the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of others and the principle of freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and international waters. I hope that one can reach an understanding on the basis of these principles.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani said in reply: These principles that you mentioned cannot be denied as a rule. We accept these principles and, as you have said, Iraq apparently accepts them as well. However, investigations have proved to us that these principles were first violated by Iraq, which has invaded our country. Even assuming it had any claims, it could have resolved the matter through international bodies.

I ask you: Now that you can see that Iraq has invaded our country and resorted to the use of force, why is it then that you do not condemn it, so that our people will be assured that you are on the side of justice. Iraq's destiny is determined by the Iraqi people. We detest war and, as you know, we have had a defensive posture in all the instances of confrontation. They are even now still pounding our cities with rockets and long-range artillery, but we in no way have allowed our army to attack Iraqi cities and civilians.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi added: Why is it that the United Nations does not regard this defense as being just and does not condemn the aggressor? We have declared our position right from the start: So long as enemy troops are on our territory, we shall do nothing but defend ourselves.

At the end of this meeting, which lasted 1 hour, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed the hope that we would patiently [word indistinct] and destroy the aggressive enemy in our territory and hope that it would become a lesson to aggressors, and that indeed you [as heard] would be true supporters of peace and justice.

Bani-Sadr Meeting

LD171658 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] UN envoy Olof Palme who is visiting Tehran met Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president, before noon today at the latter's office. According to a Central News Bureau correspondent the meeting which lasted for more than an hour, dealt with the question of ending the war. After the meeting Mr Bani-Sadr said: The issue at sake is the world public opinion and the effect of this person's trip on the fate of the war, for Mr Palme is a figure who has played an outstanding role in Algeria and Vietnam.

The president added: Iraq must cease its aggression for this is an aggression which was not launched by Iraq alone; rather it enjoyed the support and guidance of America. Anything contrary to Iran's independence and honor is unacceptable to Iran. The president added: Considering his visit to Iraq, Palme says that Iraq is prepared for negotiations, that it is ready to cooperate with international communities. Considering that this aggression by Iraq has had America's cooperation and that it is making unreasonable demands with regard to negotiation we are not prepared to accept these demands. We cannot accept conditions which negate the fruits of our Islamic revolution.

Bani-Sadr on Palme Meeting

LD181132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1034 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] According to PARS, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to this report, the president briefed the imam on the latest events and developments on the war fronts and the country's affairs. The meeting laste 40 minutes. At the end of the meeting the president talked about the issues discussed with the imam, the meeting with Olaf Palme, and Iran's participation in the Islamic conference. Replying to a question about the issues discussed in the presence of the imam of the nation, the president said:

[Begin recording] We explained the situation on the war fronts and we talked about several points which had been raised with Olaf Palme, and the things he came to say.

Then we talked about various affairs of the country and the conference of the leaders of Islamic countries, and that if Saddam does not participate what stance we should take and how we should take part. This point will be studied and in a future meeting with his excellency we will take a decision on that basis. About the war, as I have said, from a military point of view we dealt a heavy blow on the Iraqi Army. In fact, one division and two of their brigades have been destroyed.

[Question] From the enemy forces?

[Answer] Yes, from the enemy. Some plans have been drawn up and these were explained. In any case, our present state is much better than it was before. We are not in a condition that should worry us. Of course, considering the fact that our facilities are limited to what is available in the country, the situation is not such that we could end the conflict in a couple of days. We must be patient; time is needed to solve the problem, and the morale of our armed forces should be boosted.

[Question] What issues did you discuss with Olof Palme?

[Answer] There were issues that I informed his excellency about. But these issues do not warrant commenting on now. He went there [to Iraq] and had discussions with them; and we stated why we could not accept a ceasefire under the present circumstances. We explained to him that we are fighting for all humanity and future generations of human beings. Therefore, if we surrender to invasion, this tradition would become established in the life of man today and tomorrow. But if we resist and do not surrender to invasion, and thus prevent this from becoming an established tradition, all humanity will be protected and they will all learn how to stand up against invaders. Our country's future has already been guaranteed. We have many neighbors and they will not be tempted in the future. That is why we should resist, and I explained all this to him. [end recording]

Raja'i Meeting

LD171712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau correspondent, this afternoon Mr Palme, the UN envoy, met Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i at the prime minister's office for 1 hour. The topic of discussion was the Iraqi imposed war on Iran. The full details of the meeting shall be subsequently made public for the information of the combative Iranian nation after the UN envoy's meeting with the Iranian officials.

PARS Interview

LD172118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0030 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] UN special envoy Olaf Palme, having met Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, took part in an exclusive interview with a PARS correspondent.

Commenting on his meeting with Mr Raja'i, he said: We discussed various war issues as well as finding a way to peace. I shall make the outcome of my meetings known after seeing other Iranian officials.

In reply to the question as to whether he had met Tondguyan, the Islamic Republic's oil minister, during his stay in Baghdad, the UN envoy said: I did not meet Mr Tondguyan. I only spoke to Iraqi officials about him; he is well. He added: I submitted a report on my talks with the Iraqi Government concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil minister to him [as heard].

Defense Council Discusses Palme

LD190806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Excerpt] According to a report by the morning correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Surpeme Defense Council held a session last night chaired by Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief of the armed forces. Also taking part in the session were: Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister; Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly; Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative on the Supreme defense Council; General Fallahi, the acting chief of the Joint Staff; Colonel Fakuri, the defense minister and commander of the air force; Morteza Reza'i, the commander of the guards corps; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Montazeri; 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh; and Dr Kharrazi, the head of the Propaganda Headquarters [of the Supreme Defense Council]. The situation on the battlefront, the affairs of those who completed their military service in 1977 and Olof Palme's visit to Iran were reviewed and discussed.

At the end of the session Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Khamene'i, the imam's representative on the council, was asked by our morning correspondent what issues were discussed at this session. He replied:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At this session first a report on the general situation on the battlefields was submitted and general matters regarding the needs for continuing operations were discussed. Decisions were made on these matters. Next we discussed [words indistinct] statements made by Mr Olof Palme, who has again come to Iran on behalf of the secretary general of the United Nations. He has met the president and the speaker of the Majlis and has made suggestions. [words indistinct] What was discussed tonight was the separate talks he had with Mr Bani-Sadr and Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani. The statement he made and prepared was reviewed and discussed and a reply was given, which is to be submitted to him by the president. To sum up, the points he raised contained ambiguities which need to be clarified. On some points it was somewhat unrealistic; in other words, what he stated was not in accordance with the facts. He has been asked through Mr Bani-Sadr, to clarify these ambiguities so that we can later given him a clear [word indistinct] answer. [end recording]

Beheshti Meeting

JN190806 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] PARS says that Olof Palme, personal envoy of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, met yesterday with Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, the president of the Supreme Court, and held talks with him.

Following the meeting, Beheshti said that the development of the war waged by Saddam's mercenaries against Iran was one of the subjects he discussed with Palme. We reiterated our viewpoints on Iran's rights regarding this aggression, he said. Beheshti added that the Muslim Iranian people will eliminate all of Saddam's vile conspiracies and those of his masters and that the Iranian people will continue fighting until the aggressors are expelled and crushed.

Beheshti said that the Iranian people can, through Islamic values, judge all movements and decisions. Beheshti asserted that the war will end only with the defeat of the aggressors and their expulsion from Iranian territory.

Pro-Khomeyni Demonstration

LD181136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] According to PARS, a group of deportees from Iraq this morning demonstrated in front of the Esteqlal Hotel where Olaf Palme, Waldheim's special envoy, is staying. According to this report, the group, carrying portraits of the imam of the nation and other Iraqi religious leaders and chanting slogans like "God is great, Khomeyni is the leader," "death to Saddam," "Saddam's downfall is certain," "revolution until victory," announced their support for the Islamic Republic of Iran and Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They also expressed their hatred of Saddam's mercenary regime. The report also says the demonstrators carried placards on which was written in English and Arabic: We ask the UN to put the Iraqi regime and Iraqi terrorists on trial for deporting 50,000 Iraqis from their homeland. Our only guilt is that we are Muslims and support Imam Khomeyni.

COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS MEMBER SPEAKS IN DUBAI

GF161344 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Rabbani-Shirazi, member of the Council of Guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived in Dubai yesterday. He delivered a speech last night during a large meeting of Iranian brothers living in Dubai as well as Arab brothers and sisters there. He said: The Islamic republican system in Iran is founded on strong bases. The prophets' system was founded on the same bases. We have declared the slogan "there is no god but God" for many years, but we did not apply its meaning in practice. When we rose in the recent period we sought to truly implement the slogan "there is no god but God" in order to get rid of instructions and laws that are not divine, because we accept only the government of God.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rabbani said: Sunnis are our brothers. We must unite to build. We all believe in one God, the same prophet, the same book and the same qiblah. Therefore, our efforts should be one.

SHIRAZI ISSUES STATEMENT ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT

GF171119 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Mohammad Shirazi has issued a statement on the conference scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia. The statement says in part: The task of this conference now is to exclude the agent of imperialism, Saddam, from the conference, and to plan for the removal of the infidel Iraqi Ba'th from Iraq, and to try Saddam and his clique for their infidelity, corruption and agentry and for killing more than 30,000 innocents in Iraqi prisons and interment camps, and to condemn the Ba'thists' deportation of about 250,000 Muslims from Iraq and also condemn the Iraqi Ba'thists' war of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In his statement Ayatollah Shirazi warned those who cooperate with and support the infidel Saddam. He said: What will these supporters come to if Iraq is liberated and 50 million Muslims in Iraq and Iran join to say their word to Saddam's supporters?

In his statement his eminence said: It is the duty of the conferees to plan sincerely and honestly for saving Afghanistan from communism which has so far dispersed more than 2 million Muslims and killed more than 1 million.

LIBYAN ENVOY DELIVERS SUPPORT MESSAGE TO KHOMEYNI

JN181153 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning received Brother Sa'd Mujbir, secretary of the popular office of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in Tehran. PARS reports that Brother Mujbir delivered a message to the imam of the nation from the leader of fraternal Libya, Brother Col Mu'Ahmar al-Qadhdhafi, during the meeting.

In his message, the Libyan leader pledged his country's full support for the Islamic revolution in Iran and for confronting any aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Libyan leader added that Libya will support the Muslim Iranian brothers in all circumstances and cases.

OFFICIAL, LIBYAN ENVOY DISCUSS LIBYA-CHAD MERGER

GF171620 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] The secretary general of the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Tehran, Sa'd Mudbir, met today with the prime minister's adviser for political affairs, Mohammad Hashemi Rafsanjani.

PARS has learned that they discussed political relations between the two fraternal countries and Libya's union with Chad. In this regard, Mohammad Hashemi Rafsanjani said: On the basis of the values and standards of the Islamic revolution, we always support a union between Muslim countries that serves the interests of Islam and Muslim countries.

Brother Rafsanjani added: The great jurist Ayatollah Montazeri also declared his views on the Libyan-Chadian merger during Friday prayers. The Iranian Government will officially declare its stand on this union soon.

AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING TALKS WITH SYRIA

LD180728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Iran and Syria have agreed to extend their bilateral relations, especially in the political and transportation fields. This agreement was announced following the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Musa Kalantari, the minister of roads transport of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During this meeting, the Syrian president once again declared his support for the Islamic revolution of Iran, calling this revolution an important step in the fight against imperialism. Musa Kalantari said that the Muslim country of Iran stands decisively alongside the Arabs in their fight against the aggression of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

During this meeting, Hafiz al-Asad stressed the necessity for solidarity among Arabs and Muslims. He said: There is no difference between these two.

Syria and Iran have agreed to cooperate in the fields of land, sea and air transportation. It has been agreed that a joint committee will be formed in order to establish an Iranian-Syrian sea transportation company.

During these discussions in Damascus, the two countries agreed that Iran national airways should start a Tehran-Damascus-Tripoli-Algiers flight and that the yrian airline should fly from Damascus to Tehran and two other Asian capitals that will be decided upon later.

INDIAN OFFICIAL, RAJA'I DISCUSS NONALIGNED MEETING

17 Jan Arrival

JN180705 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] R.D. Sathe, Indian deputy foreign minister, arrived in Tehran at noon yesterday on a visit to Iran lasting several days. During his stay in Tehran, the Indian official will hold talks with several Iranian officials. The purpose of the Indian official's visit to Iran is to invite Iran to attend the ministerial conference of the nonaligned countries.

Tehran Talks

LD190938 Tehran PARS in English 0821 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Text] Tehran, 16 Jan (PARS)--The undersecretary of the Indian foreign minister, Mr R.D. Sathe, who is currently in Tehran, yesterday met with Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i.

During the meeting which lasted for more than 30 minutes, they discussed the conference of the non-aligned countries and its agenda, said Mr Raja'i. He added that Iran while announcing its general agreement with the holding of the conference, would declare its conditions about it later.

Replying to a question whether any discussion were made on the imposed war by Iraq upon Iran the prime minister said that they proposed to mediate as a non-aligned country if Iran was willing to this. Mr Raja'i replied (?that) they had once sought to mediate this and could not do anything. The prime minister said, "Here is not a world of advice but rather one of war. We must act the same as we have had to do in this war and expel the enemy from our country".

VISITING LEBANESE DEPUTY VOICES SUPPORT FOR IRAN

JN161355 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] Zahi al-Khatib, member of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies who is now visiting Iran, made exclusive statements to PARS in which he expressed his views on the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic summit conference, the U.S. spy hostages and Iran's no East-no West policy.

At the outset of the interview, Al-Khatib pinpointed the reasons and motives of his visit to Iran: to reiterate the Lebanese people's full support for the Islamic revolution's just and legitimate struggle against the Iraqi agression. He added that he will visit the war fronts to be able to convey a tangible experience to all the revolutionary forces in Lebanon and the Arab world and to acquaint them with the nature of the real cohesion between the imam and the fighters and how the mojahed and the commander are capable of scoring victory, as was the case in Islam.

Zahi al-Khatib said that since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran, imperialism has sought to wipe it out through plots and intrigues implemented via its agents in the area.

On his point of view regarding the Iraqi aggression against Iran, Zahi al-Khatib said that there is no difference between an Arab and non-Arab except in faith. Accordingly, I believe that not a single Arab can support Saddam under the name of Arabism. It was Imam Khomeyni who supported the Arabs in word and deed. Therefore, anybody declining to support him means support for the imperialist front.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 376-378

376: 15-16 Jan Fighting

LD161814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1647 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Communique 376 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. With gratitude for the sacrifices and devotion of Islam's combatants on the battlefronts against blasphemy, here is a partial account for the benefit of the public of the situation on the battlefronts:

Yesterday, 15 January, Abadan was constantly under the fire of the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces' artillery, which caused some damage. The artillery and heavy weaponry of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran stationed at the Abadan front responded to the mercenaries' fire.

Yesterday on the Dezful fronts, the army's combatants fiercely fired upon the enemy and Saddam's mercenaries' position. From 1400 yesterday the mercenaries of the Iraqi Armed Forces fired with long-range artillery on civilian targets, mainly the city of Dezful and surrounding villages, as a result of which six of our dear compatriots were martyred or wounded and some houses and vehicles belonging to Dezful citizens were damaged.

The activities of the armed forces on the fronts around Abadan, which were achieved mainly by using artillery and heavy weaponry against the enemy's position, resulted in the following losses and casualties for the enemy:

--On the Darkhovin-Mared axis three tanks, two mortars, one ammunition depot and quite a few of the mercenary Iraqi Armed Forces' foxholes and trenches were set on fire and destroyed. The enemy's dead on this axis numbered more than 80.

--On the Abadan-Mahshahr axis as a result of the fire of our valiant forces approximately 15 enemies of the Islamic revolution were killed, and 2 tanks, 3 vehicles, and 1 ammunition depot of the army of mercenary Saddam were destroyed.

Yesterday on most of the western fronts the sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weaponry fire between our victorious forces and the enemy continued, and in the (Tang-Hajiyan) operations four mercenary soldiers of the Iraqi Armed Forces were captured by Islam's valiants.

Also yesterday on the Dehloran front, as a result of gendarmerie's mortar fire, one tank and some of the Iraqi equipment were destroyed and their crews were killed.

Yesterday three invading Iraqi aircraft were registered by the Ilam and Bushehr bases' radar, and the invading aircraft were forced to flee following antiaircraft fire by the air defense forces stationed in the region.

At 0130 today the forces of the criminal Saddam's armed forces fired 2 missiles on the city of Gilan-e-Gharb, destroying approximately 10 houses in this city; but the Muslim valiants of this border region, by maintaining their high morale and combativeness in defending the Islamic homeland, are determined and are aware that these crimes are the outcome of the enemy's fear and an indication of the blasphemous force's coming defeat.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

377: Military Successes

LD171738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Communique 377 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Muslim and combatant people of Iran: The Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces and other people's forces continue battling on the western fronts and in the south of the Islamic homeland of Iran with the invading foe. Part of the war front operations in the last 24 hours, as reported by 1800 today, is as follows, for the benefit of public information:

1. As a result of mounting fire on the enemy's positions in the Ahvaz region by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier and 2 enemy vehicles were destroyed and about 10 members of Iraqi Armed Forces were killed.

2. Yesterday, part of the valiant city of Dezful was brought under the army of blasphemy's artillery fire, destroying a few houses. Retaliating against this cowardly attack, our valiant ones destroyed with their fire an enemy tank and 1 cannon and killed about 20 personnel of the mercenary Saddam's army.

3. The self-sacrificing personnel of Islam's army, with the mounting fire on the invading enemy's positions in the vicinity of the Abadan-Mahshahr T-junction, destroyed several individual and group entrenchments, five vehicles and an ammunition dump belonging to the invader Iraqis and inflicted losses and casualties on a number of their personnel.

4. Yesterday, the city of Abadan was under the enemy's constant artillery shelling, as a result, a hospital suffered some damage. [Word indistinct] the valiant combatants of Islam's army succeeded in destroying 4 enemy tanks, 3 cannons, an ammunition dump, 2 mortars and 7 entrenchments and killing or injuring about 60 Iraqi Army personnel. On these fronts, one member of Islam's army was martyred and nine were injured.

5. In the regions of [name indistinct], Karkheh Kur and Shush, battle between the valiant combatants of Islam's army and the invading Iraqi forces was continuing, as a result of which one personnel carrier and an enemy fuel tanker were destroyed. In the Dehloran region, the valiant ones of the Islamic Republic of Iran's gendarmerie took as the spoils of war an enemy ambulance equipped with a mobile hospital and a fuel tanker.

6. The invading forces of Iraq yesterday brought the city of Gilan-e Gharb under artillery fire and inflicted some damage. The self-sacrificing personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran also brought the Iraqi regions of Al-M'amer, Umm ar-Rasas, Sayhan and Kut az-Azyn under their enemy-killing fire, inflicting extensive losses and casualties on the enemy of Islam.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

378: 18 Jan Victories

LD190450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0300 GMT 19 Jan 81

[Communique 378 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. We bring to the attention of the beloved and Muslim compatriots of Iran some of the events on the battlefronts and a report on the activities of the victorious combatants of Islam and the brave popular forces against the army of blasphemy on 18 January 1981:

1. In the Dezful region, the armies of blasphemy and infidelity lost some of their positions and bases as a result of the artillery fire of our brave combatants. A number of enemy personnel were killed.

2. In the Ahvaz region, the guardians of the Islamic revolution, with superior morale and with hearts full of sacrifice and devotion, exhibited their combat power before the enemy, inflicting considerable losses on the army of blasphemy, which is rotten to the core. On one of the fronts in this region one tank and one personnel carrier belonging to the mercenaries were completely destroyed.

3. In the Abadan region, one loader belonging to the Saddamists was set on fire, several of the aggressors' foxholes were destroyed and a number of personnel of the aggressive enemy were killed or wounded.

4. In the Mahshahr region, as a result of our fire on the enemy positions, 4 military vehicles, 2 (?trailers), and 2 bulldozers belonging to the forces of blasphemy were destroyed and at least 50 mercenaries were killed.

5. In the Dehloran region, the brave combatants of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened artillery fire on the positions of Saddam's troops and [words indistinct] destroyed two guns and, inflicting numerous losses and casualties, forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS WESTERN FRONT SUCCESSES

LD181748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] According to PARS, the following statement was released by the public relations office at the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps:

In His exalted name. Glory to the combatants who, on the battlefronts of Islam against blasphemy, unite in their attacks against the aggressive enemy, and with God's succor will deliver the anthem of freedom of the oppressed of the world to the people of the world. Some operations of the brothers, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, on western fronts during the past 2 days are announced as follows:

On the Ilam front, the brothers of the guards corps, during a series of coordinated guerrilla operations carried out with the cooperation of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, inflicted the following heavy and fatal blows on the aggressors:

1. The forces of Islam killed 90 personnel of the mercenary enemy, wounded 12 and captured 8 others.

2. Twenty enemy vehicles were destroyed.

3. The combatants of Islam fired on a helicopter of the enemy, forcing it to crash among the forces of blasphemy.

Four 60-mm mortars, 20 RPG-7 guns and a large amount of ammunition were captured by our brave forces.

Also, a commando group of the brother guards, during a series of successful operations against one of the border posts, killed 30 mercenaries and destroyed 2 of their vehicles.

ENEMY CASUALTIES ON WESTERN FRONT REPORTED

LD171820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, fighting on the country's western fronts is continuing and defenders of the Islamic revolution in Gilan-e Gharb, Zahab and Sumar are continuing their fight.

According to the PARS correspondent's report, Islam's combatants, throughout yesterday and today, succeeded on one of Zahab's fronts in killing 60 of the enemy's forces. In the course of the same engagement, two 106-mm guns and one enemy antiaircraft 75-mm heavy machinegun were destroyed.

In another report from Ilam, PARS has reported that Islam's defenders in recent days succeeded in destroying two enemy ammunition dumps, two personnel carriers and two cannons. During the same period, gendarmerie combatants in the region of Dehloran destroyed two enemy tanks and their crews. According to reports received from the Gilan-e Gharb fronts, in the course of engagements on Thursday, one wireless, a number of machineguns, one jeep and one 160-mm gun and some ammunition for heavy and light weapons were taken as spoils of war from soldiers of the mercenary Saddam and one enemy soldier was taken captive.

COMMANDOS KILL IRAQI SNIPERS NEAR ILAM

LD181739 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] According to PARS correspondents and the Central News Bureau from Ilam, a commando group of Islamic combatants from the mobilization branch, during a series of infilitration operations inside Iraqi territory, succeeded in encircling and killing a group of Iraqi mercenary commandos who had fired on residential areas of Ilam, in border regions [as heard]. During this attack, two missile launchers, two 60-mm mortars, a large quantity of ammunition and light weapons were captured from the Iraqi commando group; and the combatants of Islam returned safely to their base, with all of the captured equipment.

FIGHTING CONTINUES ON AHVAZ, SUSANGERD FRONTS

LD171830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] PARS, quoting the Khuzestan governor general's public relations office, reported that during the last 24 hours fierce fighting was continuing at the Ahvaz, Susangerd and Hoveyzeh fronts. According to the same report, in Susangerd the self-sacrificing defenders of Islam are involved in fighting with enemy forces to the west and south of Susangerd. In the Zubeydeh region, the Airborne Division's helicopters and the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces' artillery have attacked enemy positions, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the invader enemy.

On the [word indistinct] road in the south of Ahvaz, too, as a result of our unit's fire, five enemy tanks and three loaders were destroyed. At this front, a combatant guard was martyred as a result of a mine explosion.

The Khuzestan governor general's public relations office also reported that, according to the Iraqi POW's claims, the morale of the majority of the Iraqi military personnel, and even its officers, is weak. They also asserted that the majority of the personnel, fearing pressure on their families by elements of the Iraqi regime, flee and take refuge in Iran and are reluctant to continue the war.

The mercenaries of Saddam today, once again, with their long-range artillery, aimed at the valiant city of Dezful and shelled residential areas of this city. According to an informed official of the Dezful Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in the course of the blasphemous army's savage offensive, the citizens of the city of Dezful did not suffer, however, two houses were damaged.

Another PARS report quoting the Khuzestan's governor general's public relations office, indicates that, as a result of Saddam's mercenaries' shelling a house in the city of Dezful yesterday, four Muslim and combatants citizens of this city were martyred and two others were injured. Also, as a result of the Shush hospital being shelled, the hospital has suffered some damages.

The relief and treatment headquarters of Khuzestan Province has reported that in the last 24 hours, 17 of the valiant soldiers of Islam, in fighting with the armies of blasphemy in Susangerd, Hoveyzeh, Jalaliyeh, Allaho Akbar, [word indistinct] were injured and were transferred into Ahvaz hospitals.

KHAMENE'I PRAISES ARMY'S SACRIFICES, HEROISM

JN161201 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0922 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Friday sermon by Tehran Friday Imam 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University mosque in Persian, with superimposed Arabic paraphrasing by announcer--live]

[Excerpts] mong the important issues we have is that of the battlefront situation. Various rep[illegible]s have reached the people this week and they have posed several questions.

So, without going into detail or revealing facts that might benefit the enemy, and in my capacity as attendant and (?observer) of events at the fronts, I would like to bring up two issues with you, dear brothers and sisters, and with all the Iranian people who are listening to this sermon.

The first is that sincere and loyal efforts are being exerted and sacrifices offered by the military men, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic revolution guards, gendarmerie and volunteers. Such efforts are obvious to any observer. Our brothers, the fighters and strugglers in the battlefronts, have often expressed apprehension about the Muslim people of Iran. It is for these people that the fighters have fought bravely and to the death [words indistinct] and martyrdom. Thus they have killed and have been killed. God says: Let those fight in the cause of God who sell the life of this world for the hereafter. To him who fighteth in the cause of God--whether he is slain or gets victory--soon shall we give him a reward of great (?value).

The [words indistinct], NCO's and the various ranks are offering great sacrifices and are welcoming the enemy's fire for the sake of God and the independence of this dear homeland. Yes, they have fought and are fighting for these goals.

Oh God, you are witness to the fact that I have defended the rights of the heroic fighters in the fronts. There is no doubt that the people are aware of their heroism and appreciate them as they deserve to be appreciated.

The enemies are trying to incite sedition among the ranks of the fighters and people. They want to create differences among the armed forces, the fighters and the people.

However, the people are aware that the sacrifices offered by their brothers in the fronts are precious and sincere. This is the first issue of which the people must be aware. Furthermore, the fighters must know that the people are their supporters and protectors. [applause]

Oh military commanders who are sacrificing so much and whose sacrifice I have closely observed; Oh soldiers and officers; each one of you has struggled to accomplish your duties and, accordingly, the people appreciate you as you deserve to be appreciated and are aware of your [word indistinct]. [applause]

The second issue in the fighting situation that I will discuss briefly is that among the numerous military men and the throngs of faithful fighters there are still rare examples of those, a very few people, who do not harbor in their hearts the spirit of the Islamic revolution [words indistinct]. This very small minority should be even smaller.

Today, I would like to declare that the vast majority of the various army ranks have fulfilled their duties toward this people. Indeed, they are believers. I say this to defend their right, to express the truth and to voice my appreciation of all of the sacrifices that I have observed firsthand [words indistinct]. Indeed, it is impossible for me not to give them their due appreciation and not to say that [word indistinct].

Oh brother soldiers, know that the masses' satisfaction with you is only the first stage of your work, since the nobler stage is to gain God's satisfaction.

VISITING U.S. CLERGYMAN PRAISES AHVAZ CITIZENS

GF161612 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Following his visit to Ahvaz, American clergyman Charlie Campbell said the U.S. Government and media are not informing people of the facts. He said that, above all, what draws one's attention in Ahvaz is its good citizens' steadfastness, resistance and self-denial under the leadership of their great Imam Khomeyni and their continued presence in the city despite the shelling of residential and public areas by long-range artillery of the agent Saddam's mercenaries.

A PARS correspondent asked Reverend Campbell: Will you inform the American people of the crimes and inhumane acts being perpetrated by the remnants of the infidel Saddam, acts that violate all international laws? The American clergyman replied: The American public does not know the facts. It is regrettable that the U.S. media and government are deceiving the people and distorting the facts. What we have seen in Ahvaz proved to us that their claims are false. We clearly saw how these Muslim people warmly and sincerely welcomed us.

Reverend Campbell, accompanied by six other American clergymen, arrived in Iran 3 weeks ago to study the situation in the Islamic Republic and the effects of the war imposed on us by the Iraqi regime.

MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS IN NOWSUD, PAVEH REPORTED

LD171234 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1038 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] According to a PARS correspondent who visited the Nowsud region, mopping-up operations in that region against counterrevolutionary elements and Saddam at-Tikriti's mercenaries have been conducted successfully and the heights overlooking that city have been purged of counterrevolutionaries. On the basis of this dispatch political, administrative and development deputy heads from Kermanshahan Governorate, together with a delegation from the Joint Operations Staff Command in the western parts of the country yesterday spent 13 hours inspecting operations carried out by the combatants of Islam in the Nowsud region, the city of Paveh and the hamlet of Desheh.

The dispatch says: After mopping-up operations lasting 3 days in the Nowsud and Paveh regions, these operations reached their final phases yesterday and the combatants of Islam launched an attack on the positions and assembly points of the counterrevolutionary forces in the environs of the city. During these operations in which three helicopters of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran took part, a total of 9 vehicles, 1 antiaircraft gun and large quantities of ammunition belonging to the counterrevolutionaries were destroyed and 200 counterrevolutionaries killed or wounded.

In his dispatch the PARS correspondent adds: The 3-day operations by Islam's combatants have brought security to the Nowsud region, so much so that the people of this area are flocking in droves to the governor, the deputy governor or Uramanat and military commanders to express their solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Thus Nowsud, which has been separated from Paveh for about 2 years and became the assembly point of political groupings and counterrevolutionary elements, has been cleansed from counterrevolutionaries. The report also says: During the mopping-up operations a large number of Muslim Kurdish emigrants from Nowsud and now Desheh fought shoulder-to-shoulder with other combatants of Islam. Military commanders in the region who led the operations with complete coordination, said in an interview with the PARS correspondent: The operations were rapid, decisive and well planned, so much so that all the sensitive hills in the region have been cleared of counterrevolutionaries.

During these operations, three of Islam's combatants were martyred and several were wounded. On their return from Paveh, the deputy heads of the governate general's office and the Uramanat Governate office visited Desheh, where they studied the needs of the local people. During this visit local dignitaries and representatives of the people of Desheh announced they would keep an eye on the area. The people of Desheh, by declaring their solidarity with the Islamic Republic, said they would fight shoulder-to-shoulder with other combatants of Islam without rest until Saddam at-Tikriri's infidel forces are utterly crushed.

AZARBAYJAN GENDARMERIE REPORTS ON CAPTURED WEAPONS

LD171146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] Western Azarbayjan's Regional Gendarmerie commander announced: Thanks to efforts and hard work by western Azarbayjan's Regional Gendarmerie officials during the past few days 29 G-3, Uzzi, Brno weapons and mortars and 29 rounds [as heard] of ammunition have been collected from various parts of this province. He said: Since the beginning of mopping-up operations and the gathering of arms in the region 6,059 illegal arms and 22,293 rounds of ammunition have been discovered by western Azarbayjan's gendarmerie officials.

IRAQIS REPORTEDLY ABANDON POSITIONS NEAR MARIVAN

LD172030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1702 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Text] The Joint Staff of the army and the corps of revolution gaurds in Kordestan announced that over the past few days, following heavy artillery fire by the Islamic Republic, the enemies of the Islamic revolution abandoned a great number of their positions on the outskirts of Marivan and retreated.

Quoting a source at the Marivan garrison, the corps of the revolution guards of Marivan reported that on 8 and 9 January the Islamic artillery in Marivan brought the Iraqi mercenary positions in Panjwin [northeast Iraq] under fire, killing six and wounding four of Saddam's mercenaries.

The same report adds that in the course of these attacks three enemy vehicles were destroyed and five Iraqi personnel were annihilated. Moreover, following the Islamic combatants' artillery fire, a number of armed members of the mercenary (Ra'sari) Party were killed by the Islamic combatants in (Zaraneh) garrison and in (Tahtaheh) and a number of others were wounded. The total number of casualties resulting from this attack was more than 40. Also, a 50-caliber machinegun position was destroyed in this area.

The public relations office of the Marivan corps of revolution guards, in its report to PARS, stated that yesterday three people--two members of (Ra'sari) Party and the third, a member of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party--surrendered to the Marivan corps of the revolution guards. They also handed in their weapons, consisting of two M-1's and one GC [presumedly an automatic weapon] to the authorities.

ARMED GROUPS OFFERED AMNESTY IN KORDESTAN

LD161216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch the Joint Operations Staff of the army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Kordestan issued a statement today which said: Thanks to the guidance afforded by the imam of the meek and by the great grace bestowed upo upon us by the victory of Islam we hereby give illegally armed individuals a last chance, and proclaim: Any member of the illegal and agent groups who gives himself up, together with his weapons and equipment, by 11 February 1981, and seeks asylum in the embrace of Islam, provided he has not committed murder, will be given amnesty, otherwise his liberty will depend on the verdict of Islamic revolution courts and he will be dealt with in accordance with the edicts of the Koran.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' SURRENDER IN DEZLI AREA

LD161244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau and PARS dispatch, based on a report form the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Dezh Shahpur, duped counterrevolutionary elements are increasingly giving themselves up to Islamic forces centers following the occupation of the counterrevolutionaries' sensitive areas, including those in Dezli and Darakeh.

In this connection over the past few days another five counterrevolutionary elements surrendered to the forces of Islam in the Dezli area near Dezh Shahpur and after expressing contrition and handing over their arms they received a document granting them quarter. On the basis of the same dispatch, since the occupation of Dezli to the present time some 130 members of illegal and armed groups have given themselves up to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Dezh Shahpur.

CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD ON KURDISH REPUBLIC DAY

JN181824 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1230 GMT 18 Jan 81

[Text] Dear listeners; The anniversary marking the establishment of the independent Kirdish republic, which was proclaimed by immortal martyr (Mohammad Qadi), will be observed on Thursday, 22 January. We therefore request all the honorable citizens of Kordestan, particularly the peshmerga of the democratic party, to stage procession and hold celebrations in commemoration of this glorious historic anniversary. We hereby inform our dear listeners that on 22 January the programs of the voice of Kordestan will begin at 1530 (1200 GMT).

NVOI CLAIMS U.S. PREPARING TO ATTACK IRAN

GF171914 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran 1745 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Be Prepared Against the Joint Plots of The United States and the Local Counterrevolutionaries"]

[Excerpts] Hope is being raised through the liberal bourgeoisie in various ways in connection with the question of the spy hostages to the effect that if this problem is resolved doors will be opened for the restoration of good relations with the United States. They feel that the question of the hostages is the only evil disrupting relations between revolutionary and anti-imperialist Iran and the world-devouring United States and that their release would be a good omen.

On the basis of their own experience, however, as well as on the basis of the experience of other countries whose people have achieved success in their revolutions, our people know well that our disputes with U.S. imperialism have nothing to do with the question of the hostages. They are related to Iran's escape from the influence of U.S. imperialism.

The question of deteriorating relations between Iran and the United States and the question of the hostile attitude of the United States toward Iran have no connection whatsoever with the question of the hostages. Neither the release nor the continued detention of the spy hostages would influence the rapacious and plundering attitude of the United States. The U.S. imperialists did not refrain from plotting against free Iran many months before the detention of the hostages. The important thing for the United States is not securing the release of the hostages but restoring its influence over Iran. In order to achieve its satanic objective the United States is prepared to sacrifice the 52 hostages and probably tens of thousands of Americans. The following is what President Carter told President Valery Giscard d'Estaing: We, that is to say the United States, will never renounce Iran and Germany.

The question of the hostages is only a pretext. Even if it is resolved and even if all of revolutionary Iran remains under the anti-imperialist and anti-U.S. guidance of the imam, the U.S. imperialists will continue to find excuses to plot against Iran.

The U.S. news media are preparing the American people against independent Iran. Officials of the Carter administration are endeavouring through deceit and threats to convince officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to agree to (?terms) put forward by the United States, otherwise, [words indistinct] Carter will not give Iran the agreed upon amount from the latter's assets in the United States, which amounts to $24 billion dollars. This is impudence. Even Reagan's advisers have agreed with Carter and have confirmed that unless this issue is settled the Reagan administration might resort to military force to resolve it. This means the United States will attack Iran.

The [word indistinct] and warmongering front in the United States demands that the United States declare war against Iran. They demand that the United States officially recognize as the government of Iran in exile a group they want to set up with the rejected counterrevolutionaries and shah lovers. The United States is obviously engaged in plotting openly against independent Iran and is preparing to attack our country in order to crush the Islamic Republic and replace it with a loyal regime. The United States has made it clear that it intends to drown our country in blood and chain our independent nation. It puts forth the question of the hostages as a pretext for its [word indistinct] intention. Our revolution and country are faced with attack by U.S. imperialism and with the serious damage caused by the plots of the counterrevolutionaries. Our nation should be prepared and ready to repulse the attack and counter the plots.

NVOI WARNS AGAINST U.S. MIDEAST MILITARY PACT

TA160620 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 16 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Mobilize The Nations of The Region Against The New U.S. Plot"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As we have previously informed you, world-devouring U.S. imperialism, simultaneously with the preparation of various plots against the Islamic Republic and the gains of the Iranian nation's revolution, has embarked on an extensive effort to patch up an aggressive military pact in our region. The principle elements for implementing this Satanic U.S. plan in our region are the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Ziaul Haq.

Some time ago the leaders of Saudi Arabia started extensive discussions about this pact with officials of Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman. It was in order to implement this plan that last month Prince Fahd held comprehensive talks with Ziaul Haq in Islamabad. Although some of the states of the Persian Gulf region, like Bahrain and Kuwait, have occasionally recognized the danger of being once again drawn into the orbit of U.S. policy in the region, reactionary forces and puppet regimes in this area, such as Saudi Arabia, on the one hand, and Pakistan on the other, have not recognized that the dependency on the United States and the West by these countries, leading to bondage from the economic and military standpoint, is opening the way to the implementation of the U.S. plan in patching up this pact in southwest Asia. Following the feverish activities of the reactionary forces and regimes of our region toward establishing this military pact cooked up by America, the recent visit by Pakistan dictator Ziaul Haq to Turkey has drawn the attention of the public. Even U.S. newspapers acknowledge that with his visit to Turkey, Ziaul Haq is playing the role of a U.S. middleman in connection with putting forward the issue of setting up a pact under U.S. domination. Pakistani newspapers have written that during his meeting with Turkey's leaders, Ziaul Haq discussed the question of establishing this pact, which, according to the Pentagon's plan, a group of pro-American countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia and Somalia, should enter. Thus, if in the past, only Pakistan, imperial Iran and Turkey were members of the dissolved and defunct CENTO pact, according to the plan devised by the United States in respect with this military pact, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Somalia and a number of other countries should now fill the void resulting from the overthrow of the deceased shah's regime.

As every school child knows--and according to the U.S. plan--the aim of patching up this military pact is allegedly to defend the security of the region (?against certain threats). Truly the question posed is: Against what threat? Which country or government other than America is plundering the natural resources and oil riches of the countries of our region? Which government other than world-devouring America has dispatched thousands of its military advisers and experts to the littoral states of the Persian Gulf by imposing the sale of billions of dollars of its war material? Which government other than America is dictating to these countries by utilizing the level of economic, military and political dependence? Which government other than America is establishing military bases and is building military and strategic installations with the funds of these nations and by the hands of the treacherous ruling circles of these countries? Which threat is greater, clearer and more real than the threat of U.S. imperialism and its aggressive forces to the countries of our region?

Do not the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and Pakistan see this threat? Undoubtedly they see it very clearly and comprehend it fully, however, the point is that there is a difference between the interests of the ruling circles and the satans ruling over these countries and the interests of the captive nations of these countries. The greedy interests of this or that shaykh or prince, who have deposited billions of dollars in U.S. and European banks by plundering the oil wealth of their nations, dictate that they place themselves under the protection of their American masters from fear of the rebellion and resurgence of their nations. On the one hand they falsely pretend to be the supporters of the Palestinian people and the defenders of its interests, while on the other they have placed more than $100 billion (?of their oil wealth) in the service of world-devouring America--this stubborn and loyal supporter of aggressor Israel.

The (?threat) to the independence and national sovereignty of the nations of our region is that these puppet regimes along with their accomplices like Ziaul Haq, this old companion of Mr Qotbzadeh, have been extensively acting to establish a new aggressive military pact under the basic leadership and command of the United States. It is very obvious that the purpose of establishing this pact, above all, is to intensify U.S. military presence in the region, and to crush any anti-imperialist, anti-monopolist and national liberation movement, and particularly to implement plots to overthrow our Islamic Republic. All the nations of the region should be made aware of the danger of this new U.S. plot. All the nations, all the national, revolutionary, religious and committed forces of the region should be mobilized to expose and foil this dangerous plan of world-devouring America.

NVOI ASSAILS AFGHAN 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES'

GF181408 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani to Iran 1745 GMT 17 Jan 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Destructive Activities of the Afghan lackeys in Our Country Have To Be Brought To an End"]

[Excerpt] Dear compatriots, it was reported some time ago that Egyptian President as-Sadat had allocated $1.5 million to the holy people of Afghanistan--in other words, to the Afghan counterrevolutionary groups. Thus, it was made clear in Cairo that As-Sadat's regime was eager to fund the destructive activities of the Afghan counterrevolutionaires and highwaymen against the DRA.

As-Sadat was not satisfied with the financial support he had allocated, however, and he decreed that a solidarity week be organized in support of the counterrevolutionaries who are plotting against the legal Afghan Government. It was decided, with the consent of the Egyptian Government, that a fund should be established to support this group of smugglers and highwaymen. Representatives of Afghan counterrevolutionary groups have arrived in Cairo to collect their gratuities from As-Sadat.

It must be taken into consideration that Ziaul Haq's regime in Pakistan is the main supporter of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. This regime has set up joint bases in Pakistan with the Afghan counterrevolutionaries in order to give them military orders and to provide them with U.S. and Chinese tactical arms, including chemical weapons.

The Afghan counterrevolutionaires infiltrate into Afghanistan mainly from Pakistan and commit numerous crimes against the free Muslim people of independent Afghanistan. It is common knowledge that the Chinese Maoists, who are against every (word indistinct) and every progressive regime, are playing an active role in instructing Afghan counterrevolutionaries. They use the counterrevolutionaries in various ways to achieve their aggressive objectives. Nevertheless, the perpetrators of the plots against the DRA are in the hands of the CIA spies.